JOURNAL

OF

A TOUR

MADE BY

SENOR JUAN DE VEGA,

THE SPANISH MINSTREL

OF 1828-9,

THROUGH

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND,

A CHARACTER ASSUMED BY AN ENGLISH GENTLEMAN.

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JOURNAL OF A TOUR,

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CHAPTER I.

Telling Fortunes—The Widow's Motherly Affection—Innocence again in Jeopardy—A Dancer—I almost lose my Heart—The Widow's Figure—I determine to avoid her House—An Adventure—The New Trousers—The Pedagogue—I refuse the Widow's Invitation, and resolve on quitting Bath and my new Lover.

AS they were arranging the card table, I gave way to a little reflection, and for the first time felt my *amour propre* very much wounded. I inveighed against the darkness, the widow, and every thing which daylight interdicts. The party being now seated, and the cards ready, I was relieved from this incubus of vexation, and seated myself close to the charming priestess of the temple, who having shuffled the cards told

me to wish. I wished that I might see her again in London. She told me to cut the cards into three parts; and, finishing the cabalistic investigation, said, "No! you'll not have it." She told me to wish again, adding, that it must not be the same wish, although she was not acquainted with it; for it is contrary to the rules of this predicting art to name your thoughts. I wished that *

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She again shuffled the cards. I cut them. They were laid out, and well examined; and the dear little creature told me with an expression of joy on her countenance, that I should have my wish to the utmost.

All this time the widow was casting inexpressible glances at me, to which, however, I paid but little attention, for her daughter was too near and too visible. I did every thing to annoy her, and continually joked her on her attentions. "Ah!" said I, "I know where your thoughts "are: the handsome D——, and the three thou- "sand pounds." "Really it's very cruel of you, "Juan." "My dear madam," said I, "it was "your sighing that attracted my notice. I know "you love the D——; but, oh Dieu! the three "thousand pounds was a great loss."

The children laughed at their mother, and I

joined them. I must do her the justice to say, she met my irony with a very amiable face. My fair auguress having the cards still in her hand, I asked her to tell me whether I should be rich or not, and what lady I loved most. The cards were now shuffled. "Oh! what a deal of money "you are going to have. You are going a "journey almost immediately, and a very long "one. There is a lady that is very fond of you, "and that very recently. You have a very good "friend in a dark man." It can't be the Jew I thought. "There is a letter coming to your "house, and very shortly. There are two ladies "very fond of you. One is young, of a dark "complexion; the other is a widow." Here the mother looked excessively annoyed, and examining the cards, said it was so.

I could not refrain from a laugh, and, looking very archly at the widow, said, "I *wonder* who "that widow can be." The pretty A—— smiled at my observation, and then continued: "The "widow loves you very much, but you don't care "any thing about her." Here I again gave way to a loud laugh, while the amorous widow looked greatly vexed, but could not be angry with her daughter as she merely *read* the cards. To add more to her vexation (I shall never forget her red face), I now said, "How you are thinking of "the D——, and the three thousand pounds."

"*Ne vous chagrinez pas.*" "Upon my word, "Monsieur Juan, you are quite tormenting."

The auguress continued: "You are shortly "going to receive some money. You are going "to travel about immediately." The cards were again put together, and again shuffled, and again laid out. The knave of clubs was laid on the table as my representative; and, curious enough, the queen of spades for the widow came immediately after. The little quiz exclaimed, "Oh! "why the widow is close by you." Her mother's face became scarlet. She looked fiercely at her daughter, and then glanced at her fate in the cards. I never was so amused in my life. I gave way to a positive roar of laughter, which the little ones joined in at their mamma's expense. I now asked the mother, for the sake of tormenting her, who this widow could possibly be; for I was not aware that any such person liked me, and I was sure I did not like any body of the kind. Mrs. E—— replied, with an air of such exquisite interest, "Really it's very cruel of you, Señor Juan— "how you like to torment."

I again asked the little decider of fates to favour me with one more, and I would not think of giving her further trouble. The cards were shuffled and cut, when I silently wished, that she and her sisters might be happy and rich. The cards were now laid out, and in a few seconds

she said, "No! you will not have your wish." I had positively become so superstitious, as almost to have breathed a sigh when she uttered these words.

"Come A——," said the widow, "we have "had *enough* of cards: tell his *bonne aventure* "by the hand: you understand this also;" and here the amorous widow's hand fell on mine; and pressing it, by no means in the most gentle manner, she looked vastly loving. The dear palmistress honoured me by taking hold of my hand; and, after examining well the lines with all the intentness of a real Bohemian, she directed me to two small lines under the little finger, as indicative of love. The mamma looked, gave her assent, and then brightening her eyes glanced them archly at me. The young lady now spoke about the immense distance between certain lines in the palm of the hand and the wrist, and then pronounced I was sure to be happy and prosperous in all my undertakings.

Tea was now served, and like the dinner in a most slovenly manner; after which the young ladies showed me their paintings. They were done in very excellent style; and to the little fortune teller's productions, I paid many compliments. She begged me, if I liked any of them, to take them. I fixed upon a butterfly, which she said was the first thing she ever painted; and I

promised her I would, on my return to town, have it put in a frame, and keep it for ever.

Mrs. E—— now favoured us with her performance on the pianoforte, which indeed was very beautiful. She was a perfect mistress of this instrument. I observed, in reference to a lively air she was playing, that it gave me a wish for dancing. "If so," said the widow, who was *tres aimable*, "my daughters dance, and I'm "sure that A—— will valtze with you."

I went to supplicate the honour, and we valtzed round the room several times. Pleased with my partner, as she valtzed very gracefully, I resolved on repeating my request as I handed her to a chair. Mrs. E—— came up to me, and paid me a thousand compliments on my dancing; and, naughty woman! tapped me under the chin again, putting on such oglings; but I, "insensible creature," remained callous to so much tenderness.

"*Allons*, a quadrille," said I to the widow; "*De tout mon cœur*," she replied, very good naturedly, and resumed her seat at the pianoforte. I need not say I had Miss A—— for my partner. Whilst her two sisters were dancing, I entered into a *tête a tête* with my very pretty partner. I paid her after the style of her mother (save the tapping under the chin) many compliments on her dancing. In the course of my adulatory

remarks, I said to her, that she must persuade her mamma not to let me come any more, lest I should lose my heart. Poor thing! God bless her simplicity, she knew not how to repel my attacks, and smiled as if I had been talking of dolls and rocking-horses.

Fifteen is a tender age, and in this climate, where the seasons are so backward, young ladies are horribly *naïve*. However, I will not call Miss A—— uninteresting; she was very far from it. Had she seen a little more of the world, she would have been perfect. She possessed beauty sufficient to endanger my heart. Her face was by no means extraordinary; her features however were very regular and well-proportioned; the general expression of her countenance was soft and pleasing, pervaded by an air of melancholy, which in my estimation rather added to than took from its interest.

Her smiles were seldom, but when they did appear they were full of sweetness, though of too much simplicity; what made her perfectly angelic was her sylph-like figure. I never shall forget her form. She walked with perfect dignity although so young.

The mother—by the bye it is very ungallant of me not to do her the justice of giving some little description of her *fascinations* after so long a flirtation with her—but I do not much like this *portraitive* kind of narration; it savours too much

of the novel—The mother's figure was very good, and indeed I should have said, had she not tapped me so frequently under the chin, that she was not a bad looking woman, though by no means a pretty one. She was rather above the general height, and possessed a countenance sufficiently good to warrant the handsome D—— to ask her (by way of a compliment I suppose), if she were not a German. The nose and chin were long and pointed, her mouth was in very fair proportion, and capable of smiling with great softness, when her widowship was not obstreperous. Her face was rather long, her forehead high, her eyes were blue, and of moderate size; but, from the angular inclination of the nose, their expression, when this *foster matron* was amorous, was pointedly and eloquently so.

She had an excellent head of hair. Her leg and foot were very well turned, the latter was rather small; of these she was rather vain, as she frequently attracted my attention to them, and took great care that they were not concealed by too much drapery. There was another part of her precious form, to which she was by no means indifferent, although she affected to be so. I mean that part which it is the fashion to make appear particularly large..

"It's very ugly," said she; "I declare I wish it was not so," and her hands fell to her waist, and she looked as if she did not mean it. "*Au contraire*,"

said I, "I think it pretty, and you have displayed "great taste in the *arrangement*." "I assure you it's not artificial," said the widow, incensed at such a suspicion, and offered me touching proofs. I thought of a *large pin*, which was laying on the table, but yielded to more charitable feelings, and told her I was perfectly satisfied with her assurance. This is a small outline of widow E——.

After we had danced two or three quadrilles, a contre dance was proposed by the widow. I assented immediately, for I was anxious to valtze again, with my delightful partner, and the young ladies were equally willing on their part. We valtzed with great spirit. I was never happier in my life, and, almost electrified, had scarcely the entire command of my thoughts. I am sure my situation was excusable. My cheeks became suddenly heated, and, observing the widow's attention was wholly absorbed by her music, I advanced towards my pretty partner to —— To retire without realizing my intention. At this critical moment, a serious thought came over me. I shuddered a little, and suddenly stopped, feigning I was giddy. I handed her to a chair, and then seated myself on the sofa, vowing I would never enter the house again.

So curious is my volatile nature: I began to ruminate on my strange situation. Dear little creature, said I to myself, as I gazed on the fair

form I had been dancing with, I think from circumstances she is not entirely indifferent to me. I am sure to be so if I continue to come here, and of what use would it be to either of us? I was not yet an admirer of the *white favours*, and to have contemplated her in any other light would have been *sacrilege*. Her unfortunate mother, who was of so gay and thoughtless a turn, and had brought upon her and her sisters, misfortune and disgrace, might perhaps bring more.

The consciousness of their having been once in affluence and luxury; the excellence of their education; the sad relics of their former prosperity were conspicuously pourtrayed in a dirty, half strung guitar, and a harp with nearly all its chords broken. The vile manner in which their meals were served up, all these things worked so strongly upon my sympathy, that I resolved if I could not lessen their misfortunes, not to add to them. I was for once sentimentally in love, and managed successfully to combat every selfish feeling.

A favourite servant entered the room, and the little girls asked her to sing, *C'est l'amour*, &c. She did not require much pressing, and sang away, introducing some strange words of her own coining in imitation of the real ones. The melancholy, which my sympathy had created, was soon dissipated by a hearty laugh at this Anglo-French ballad singer; and the little girls, who

were perfect Parisians, seemed to be infinitely amused.

Some music succeeded, which was performed by the widow, and I mechanically drew myself to the pianoforte. Confound the woman! She thought I had turned penitent I suppose, and endeavoured to look a world of tenderness. Her glances had a most chilling effect. She remarked it, changed the expression of her face, and spoke something about taking a box at the theatre for me. I nodded slowly in approval, but her daughters seemed much pleased with the proposition. My new mamma sighed, looked lovingly, and invited me to the window to look at *the stars;* but I returned her request, I fear rudely, by sarcastically speaking of the three thousand pounds. The clock very shortly struck eleven, when I wished them good night, making a *formal* bow to Miss A—— and the widow: the latter grasped my hand so horridly tight, that I can fancy the pressure of her digits at this moment. I returned home full of the most melancholy reflections, and was disturbed the whole night by the thoughts of this unfortunate family.

On the following evening as I was walking towards the Royal Circus, I observed a girl very close behind me, and, crossed to the other side of the street; I found that she immediately did the same. My mortal frailty strongly evinced itself, and fancying that it *might* be on my account, I

ventured to speak to her. She seemed by no means surprized, and answered as if she expected me to enter into conversation with her. As we walked along, I of course vowed many things that I did not mean. She told me—I can't remember all the sweet things she said, but it was when I was in a music shop in the High Street, that she first took it into her head to feel interested about the "Spanish Minstrel."

It is curious what inexpressible pleasure one feels when the vanity is flattered in such affairs as these. On the present occasion, I will candidly confess I was so weak as to believe all she said, and in return repeated my fervent vows, and was proposing that——"No, no, said she "your dress is too conspicuous, I don't like your short "inexpressibles; and your hat, although I think "it very pretty, will attract too much attention." I agreed to make the necessary alterations against the next appointment, and taking a most fervent adieu, "*jusqu' a revoir*," I repaired to a tailor's, to whom I had given an order for a pair of trousers as the weather was becoming cold, and I felt the defence of a stocking too little to guard against its chilling influence.

The tailor was punctual to his promise; and, after I had tried on the trousers, he declared they became me so well, and complained of the smallness of the pay. I knew he was not speaking his real opinion, so laughed at him. He be-

came loquacious; and by the time I had perfectly remade my toilette, and paid his demand, he asked me to take something to drink. I refused; he pressed me, adding I was welcome. I again refused. Mr. Snip (I ought to be careful how I speak of the professors of this man-making art), then offered me a general invitation to his house.

I went home to complete my metamorphosis; and instead of wearing my collar as usual, I wore it along the sides of my face. My hat I changed for my cap, the bad colour of which the night concealed, and started off to my appointment with the fair "Incognita."

She expressed very great astonishment at the unexpected difference my little change of dress had made. "Never mind," she continued, "It's "better than to attract general notice; though "I certainly do not like your collar stuck up in "that way, or the cap either," and then readily consented to my going home with her. A more agreeable evening I never passed in my life, and returning home, felt my vanity flattered more than ever. I passed the next day entirely in the company of this fair little stranger.

The day after I did not feel much disposed to perambulate the streets with my guitar, so wrote my notes in the morning, and, in the afternoon, took a walk as far as Beckford's Tower. On my return, as I was asking some questions of the keeper of the toll, a gentleman wrapped up in

a large camlet cloak, ornamented with a red serge lining, and a peculiar collar of the same colour, instead of fur, came up to me.

He introduced himself to me by saying he could not speak French, but offered to act as my interpreter in Latin. After he had explained for me, we proceeded to the town together and continued our Latin conversation, which was the first time I had ever attempted to hold a colloquy in this language, and, much to my surprise, found that I was more fluent than I could have giving myself credit for. He asked me to walk into his house, and as we were proceeding through a very large shrubbery, he did not fail to bestow a few praises on it, and then, suddenly stopping short, wrapped his camlet cloak close around him, as if he were folding a Roman toga, said, "Quare, "Domine, in Anglicam venisti?" "Oh, Domine," said I, throwing myself into a classical position, and slowly extending my right arm with an affectation of pedantry greater than his own, repeated,

"Nos patriæ fines, et dulcia linquimus arva;
"Nos patriam fugimus: Tu, Tityre, lentus in umbrâ."

"I am sorry, Domine," said he, "sed fortuna "mutat." This was the consolation the worthy Latinist afforded me. I bowed gravely my assent to his remark, and we proceeded on to his house.

He conducted me into his study, showed me an immense quantity of the Latin and Greek au-

thors, and then told me he was a professor of these languages. "You are now my guest, and "it is necessary I offer you some refreshment. "Vis tu aliquid vinum bebere?" "Imo, Domine," I replied, "si tu vis?" when he unlocked a drawer and brought out a bottle of *black* coloured wine, saying it was his own making. Two glasses were filled. He offered me one, and taking up the other said, "ad salutam tui." I repeated the health, and we both drank together; but before I had half finished the glass, I took it away from my lips with a shudder, for it was the most villainous stuff I ever tasted. Not so with him, he emptied his, again pressed me to drink, saying it was very innocent and would do me no harm, and finally told me it was elder wine. "Your "English wine is too *strong* for me," said I, "and "excuse my taking any more." "Certissime," said he; and I then made a movement to retire, fearful that he might bring me some eatables of his own making. He accompanied me to the road, expressed himself very happy of my acquaintance, begging shortly to see me again. We both said, *vale*, and I returned to the town infinitely amused with the "pedantry" of my friend in the camlet cloak.

As I was sitting in the parlour of the inn, a person came in with a *petit billet* for me. It ran as follows:—

"Dear Don Juan;

"You have not come to-day ac-
"cording to your appointment. Say yes, or no, if
"you will come, for we will wait for you,

"Yours sincerely,

"E——"

I retired to my room, tore the note into a hundred pieces with rage, and then returned to the man; told him to tell Mrs. E—— I was particularly engaged and could not come.

The servant shortly returned again from the stupid widow's, with the same request, adding, that all the ladies were in full dress to receive me, which he did not fail to relate before all the persons in the parlour, as he drank a pint of porter. I very soon wrote her an excuse, and on giving it to the man he exclaimed. "Why, don't you intend to come?" "No," I briefly replied. He muttered something to himself; said, "'Twas very strange," and the rest of the people in the room were immediately on the *qui vive.* He examined the superscription, said something about gentlemanly writing, and went away.

Two of the events foretold by the beautiful little fortune-teller were already realized. The one, that I was going to receive a letter very shortly, was verified in her mother's note; the second was a dark girl being fond of me. The

nymph, whose preference I had now the good fortune to be honoured by, answered precisely to this description. As to her fondness, it would be hazardous to advance this as a certainty, though she expressed a most inseparable love.

At the time of hearing my *bonne aventure* it may be remembered I said, I had almost become superstitious; but this was a feeling that left me of course in a very short time. I had now, however, greater reason to indulge in such a belief than before, although I should be ashamed at any time to acknowledge that I placed my faith in this mystic art.

CHAPTER II.

I arrive at Bristol — A Methodist's Family — A Salutation in Spanish — A Digression — My Guitar out of repair — I meet my Bavarian Friend of Salisbury — A Song — The Observatory — Civility of its Keeper — Another pretty Jewess — Visit a Glass Manufactory — Introduced to a German Musician — He plays the Guitar — Black Rats.

THE next morning, December 16, at 11 o'clock, I left Bath by the coach for Bristol, without taking my leave of the romantic little stranger I had so recently become acquainted with. It was very ungracious certainly; but, considering the matter *seriously*, I thought it best to act as I did. It rained very fast, and the weather was cold enough to chill all my love, if I had had any for her. However, under the shelter of the umbrella, that the worthy artist of Southampton gave me, and a huge man who was to windward, I managed to screen myself.

The only remark this unfavourable journey allowed me to make was, on the peculiar redness of the soil. The roads appeared to be covered

with blood. As we approached Bristol, the weather cleared up; and, paying my fare, I proceeded about the town to look for apartments. At every place I made enquiries I was taken for a Russian belonging to the ships, which were then lying in the roads; and at last I put up at a tailor's in Charles Street, King Square.

In the afternoon my landlord and his good wife were alone. I soon perceived they came from that very polished county, Cornwall. I also discovered that they were very staunch methodists. As the good folks proceeded to their tea, I observed, that according to their methodistical rules, they had not said grace. It is rarely that I ever spare a methodist, so told him of it. "I "forgot," he replied; and I perceived that he was embarrassed at my remark.

When supper came, he took good care not to lay himself open to a similar rebuke; but at bed time he observed to me, that he and his wife were going to pray, and asked me if I would join them. "How long shall you be?" said I. "Only "ten minutes," he replied. I nodded my assent, and did as they did, knelt down beside a chair, covering my face with my hands.

He made an extemporary prayer, which surprised me, from the easy manner in which it flowed from his lips, as well as the judicious subjects introduced. As he finished, I complimented him on the great ability and judgment he

had displayed; and he smiled, apparently satisfied that I had paid so much attention.

The next day I proceeded out with my guitar, and was engaged at various places. I had a Spanish coin given to me as a particular favour, and I have it now in my possession; for I promised the young lady, who presented it me, I would keep it. As I was returning home, a young gentleman, who was sitting at his parlour window smoking a cigar, hailed me with "Paysano, como esta vm.?" "A los pies de vm. "Señor," said I, though from the manner in which he spoke I imagined him rather too conversant with the Spanish to make his acquaintance agreeable. I was going, when he was immediately at the door, and begged me to walk in. "Devilish glad to see you," said he, as I entered the door. "I've been a long time in Spain, "come in, come in;" and we walked into his parlour which was full of smoke. He introduced me to his brother, "Vamos, Señor," said he, "á "cantar." "Si vm. quiere," said I, and I sang to him.

"Now, Señor," said he, "you must taste some "of your country's delicious wine," filling a glass of sherry. "I shall be too happy," said I, "if "'tis but to drink to your health." "Picaro! "you scamp," said he, "I know you're ——" and he was cut short in his compliment by the servant giving him a letter. As he read it, I

observed his countenance gradually become very serious; he threw it to his brother, asking him what he must do. The brother read it, and exclaimed, "d—— me call him out." "Caballero," said he, "yo tengo que hacer. Adios amigo, "hasta la vista;" and he put a half crown into my hand as he shook it. I made him my bow, and returned home.

This exclamation of his brother's strongly reminded me of one I made to a young friend of mine; and, now I think of it, I was relating this story, I think it was at Canterbury; but was cut short — yes —by the candle going out, just as I exclaimed to my friend, "d—— me why d'ont "you call him out." I will therefore resume it. "Call him out," said he, in reply to my remark, "he is too great a coward to fight." "'Tis well I did not, for even at the letter which I sent him, wherein I complained of my pecuniary distress; of his great neglect; and said, that if he did not render me assistance I would expose him at his club: the poltroon ran to the magistrate's for a warrant against me, which was granted; and one of those amiable looking gentlemen, ever active in doing their duty when it brings money to their pocket, was ushered into my room about two days after; and just waiting, for "*appearance* "*sake*," as he termed it, until the servant had retired, in a very bland tone said to me, "Your "name is ———. I have come on the part of

"Captain N. D——. You have only to"——"My name is not ———," said I, cutting him short. "Never mind, Sir," continued he in his former tone; "it's all the same, *you* are the person intended;" and he drew out a small piece of paper of which he begged me to take charge, adding, "it was only to appear at —— Street." "Very well," said I, again stopping him; "I "will attend it." He bowed respectfully, moved away, and pulling about the rim of his hat, lingered at the door.

"I suspected what he was waiting for, although a perfect stranger to the practices of these gentry, and gave him some silver, which had the instantaneous effect of teaching him the way out.

"I immediately directed my steps to one of those narrow streets leading out of the Strand, the name of which I do not exactly remember; where I had been apprized by a friend of mine, that a lawyer, who possessed some ability in his profession, resided. He was rather an honest sort of fellow, whilst low-cunning and shrewdness were generally imputed to him as his particular qualities; "N'importe," said I, I never consider the morality of lawyers, or look upon them as the *scales* of the law, but as the lever of the scales; and he whose length of lever or abilities are the greatest, from him only do I expect success.

"Lawyers grasp at any cause which may first come to hand. Justness of the question has

nothing to do with it; therefore why *talk* of honesty? Your latter remark is his principal recommendation. His low cunning, and shrewdness, will enable him better to overthrow the argument of his adversary; and *ability*, not *honesty*, is what I look for in a lawyer. Well; on being ushered into this legal gentleman's office, I told him the nature of my visit. He continued writing as I was relating to him the circumstances of my dispute with the Captain; at which I at first appeared offended, thinking he was neglecting me.

"The lawyer smiled, and desired me to go on with my story, as he perfectly heard every thing I said. Nevertheless I was still dissatisfied, though I did as he requested. About five minutes after, he changed his coat to accompany me to the magistrate's, walking at the rate of six miles an hour, and continually telling me to relate to him every particular. I did so, as well as the velocity of our travelling would admit, and he assured me before he got half way, that he *perfectly understood* every thing. He now began to counsel me what to do, what to say, and how I might expect the fate of the day to turn.

"We arrived at the magistrate's at the same time that the gallant Captain did, who requested a private audience, which was granted. On our entering the room, the two lawyers recognized each other, and bowed with an immense

deal of urbanity. Strange profession! Now then to action. The Captain commenced by stating that I had sent him a letter, which was the cause of his present complaint, and then handed the letter to the magistrate. His worship read it; and, looking at me, observed, "'Twas very wrong." My lawyer now very shrewdly observed something about my general good behaviour; then, of the harshness of the Captain's conduct.—His lawyer made an advance, and observed, "that he "felt convinced that the Captain was doing every "thing to the very utmost of his power to give "general satisfaction; and indeed he was placed "in a very disagreeable situation, and one which "required great judgment." This auxiliary of the Captain possessed, unfortunately, so patibulary a countenance, that he belied his very utterance.

"I will not venture to say how little the worthy magistrate gave credence to this statement, as I did not observe any particular expression in his face, other than that of graciousness.

"My lawyer again displayed his shrewdness; and the magistrate, first casting his eyes on my letter, and then to me, addressed me as follows: "Mr. ———, it appears evident from the nature "of your letter, your object was neither more "nor less than to provoke a challenge: conse-"quently it is a breach of the peace." My lawyer interrupted him, and endeavoured to

lessen its warlike appearance. "Well then," rejoined the magistrate, "I conceive if Mr. "——— will tell the Captain it shall not occur "again, that it will be quite sufficient;" and he turned round to the hero of my tale. The Captain drawled out "Y---es."

"I now stepped forward, and addressed his worship after the following manner:—"Sir; "from the very gentlemanly and kind manner "which you have displayed towards me, I feel it "my duty to do as you have advised: I therefore "Captain N. D******** tell you, that this shall "not occur again; but Sir," said I, turning to his worship, "as I have said thus much, permit me "to crave the indulgence of two or three minutes "to account for why I wrote that letter.

"At the time I penned this letter, I was so "reduced for money, that I had scarcely where- "with to provide myself the common neces- "saries of life, and expected to be turned out of "my apartments for not being able to pay for "them. This, Sir, has arisen from the Captain "not having paid me my money, due some "months, on account of a legacy left me, he "being my father's executor; and, to every solici- "tation for assistance, he has always turned a "deaf ear, and very frequently accused me of "*extravagance*. It was not only this unkind "conduct, which itself was enough to drive me "to write such a letter; but Captain ———,

"who is an illegitimate child himself, seizes
"every opportunity to taunt me with my misfor-
"tune in this respect; in proof of which he has
"now taken out the summons in another name
"than my real one, in order to try to wound my
"feelings by the name which is written on it."

"The worthy magistrate honoured me with the greatest attention, and then very coolly took up a pen and discharged the warrant. But the Captain—(I never shall forget his pallid countenance). I clearly perceived I had surprised him by saying what I did, as no doubt he thought my pride would not have allowed me. Conscience-stricken, his cowardly soul showed itself in his face, which he attempted to conceal by a smile; but it only rendered his appearance the more ghastly. He there stood a disgrace, both to his profession and the family he wears the name of; and, if he has any pride about him, from that day he ought to consider his name for ever blasted.

"The lawyers now entered most unconcernedly into conversation with each other, and I made my bow to the worthy magistrate and retired. Let me not be ungrateful to the lawyer. My little speech to the magistrate was of his composition; and I consider my success greatly owing to him, though his legal opponent was certainly as stupid a man as I ever met with."

I had never seen my young friend so happy in my life before. From constant pecuniary embar-

rassment, as well as insurmountable difficulty in gaining friends to assist him, he usually had a gloom on his countenance. I was indeed happy to see him in such excellent spirits, and joined with him in many hearty laughs, as he related to me with enthusiasm the particulars of this affair.

Now to my own adventures.—Wrapped up in the recollection of the above narrative, I forgot entirely the idea of what might be the consequences of that, " d—— me! why don't you call " him out?" of the young gentleman's brother, and returned home to a very excellent dinner prepared by my very thrifty landlady.

My guitar wanting a little repair I took it to an instrument maker, who promised to return it on the following day. He was not however punctual, and my next day was passed in the house partly writing, partly reading the description of Bristol and other books. The day after, my guitar was returned, and I proceeded forthwith to affect the purses of my hearers with its music.

As I was coming out of a house in Clifton, I saw a buy-a-broom girl at the door, and I immediately recognised one of the three women I had met at Salisbury. "How do you do," said I, in as good German as I could muster. "Ah! ah! " ah! Coote, stankin," she replied (this is as well as my ear directs me); and she turned to the

young lady who had accompanied me to the door, and asked her to buy some of her brooms. "I "sing you little song, buy-a-broom." "Indeed "she can," I added, "and if you like I will play "to her;" and accordingly the Bavarian commenced to an accompaniment in Sol.

I felt amused at the great pains the woman was taking to sing her song correctly; and as she concluded, she very adroitly laid great emphasis on "will you please to buy-a-broom." I could not help smiling at my curious situation, and I left the Bavarian to dispose of as many brooms as she could, lest it might be thought the houses of *Spain* and *Bavaria* were united in the persons of a Spanish minstrel and a Buy-a-broom girl. By the bye, these are most extraordinary women. I have often thought they would do well for a marching regiment. I left them in Salisbury, where they proposed stopping a week after me, and yet I found them at Bristol as soon as myself.

From this I proceeded to the Hotwells, and thence to the top of St. Vincent's Rock. There is a fine view of the country round, and particularly of the river Avon, which presents a very curious appearance, meandering through two hills of rock rising almost perpendicularly to a great height. It came suddenly on to rain very fast, and I ran into the Observatory close by for shelter.

A very genteel young woman begged me to walk into her parlour and be seated, and I in return offered her my music. She thanked me, and I sang to her. She observed that she herself once played the guitar; but from a reverse of circumstances had not time to practice. She showed some of her husband's paintings to me, and again asked me to play. I did so; and in the middle of an Italian air in entered her *caro sposo* begging me not to disturb myself. You take things much cooler than I should, thought I; but continued my singing to the end of the air, when his wife explained how I came in. He showed me the paintings, which I had already seen, and invited me to the top of the observatory. I accompanied him thither, and through some fine large telescopes, which his own mechanical genius had constructed, I had a very fine view of the surrounding country. He invited me to call on a fine star-light night to examine the heavens. I now thanked him and his lady for their attention, and receiving theirs for my music, I wished them good day.

Nothing for the next two days occurred worthy of notice, save that I accidentally met the two gentlemen who were going to send a challenge, and I learnt that a duel was not going to take place.

I met also at a certain shop another itinerant

Jew pedlar's wife, far exceeding in beauty the one I left in Bath. She was nursing a little pledge of master Moses' affection, about two months old, and told me that it's papa was *en route*, directing my attention to his portrait. In the same proportion that this woman exceeded Levy's wife in beauty, so did her sposo, Levy in ugliness.

It's strange, thought I to myself, that these Jews should get such pretty wives. Indeed as I gazed at his portrait I gave evident signs of my opinion by the expression of my face; and then said to the woman, who had been watching me all the while, I presume you are very fond of him. "He is not handsome I know," said the woman smilingly, "but he's very good, and "therefore I do like him; but I assure you I "have had many handsome gentlemen, who have "been very fond of me;" and here she related a variety of circumstances wherein she had *been adored* for her beauty. "I doubt it not," said I, "and you may class me amongst the number." "No, no," said she, and her little child gave signs of becoming noisy, so I went away and never returned again.

On Monday, the 22d, I went to a reading room in the town where I was already known, and amused myself with the papers. I left my guitar here, and visited a large glass manufac-

tory, where I received a great deal of attention, and was infinitely gratified with the curious process.

In my perambulations I accidentally fell in with a person who entered into conversation with me, and told me he was acquainted with a German who played the guitar very beautifuly. He said he had been an officer in the Bavarian service, but was *now* a *professor* of French; though not *entirely* dependent on it, as he had a small fortune of his own. We went accordingly to the German's; and I was introduced as a Spanish constitutional officer. We both bowed, and I was requested to be seated. "Monsieur," said I, after a short time, "is un peu renommée "sur la guitarre, I understand from this gen- "tleman." "No, no," said he, with a very peculiar smile that signified, yes, yes: "It is from "your country that we expect good performers. "Will *you* do me the favour to play?"

Desirous of hearing him play, I took up his guitar, first observing that for scientific playing we must go to Germany, that the Spaniards only excelled in their national airs; though I did not hint any thing about who were capable of creating the most *agreeable effect*. "You speak very "candidly," he replied; "and I must confess that "I also entertain the same opinion." I played to him a seguidilla. He *just* smiled as I finished;

(whilst the other person looked infinitely pleased), then added that all my variations were in the same chord, E.

I bowed my acquiescence to his remark, though 'twas the first time I knew any thing about the chord I was playing in. He now took up the guitar, and played a very scientific piece, displaying the greatest execution, and very considerable taste. He afterwards played me a variety of pretty valtzes of his own composition.

When I took my *congé*, he expressed his pleasure with my acquaintance, and presented me with his card; on which was written, Mr. A. S——, with his London as well as Clifton address. He gave me a hint for mine. I pulled out a little book made of a sheet of white paper, and a pencil, which I carried about for the express purpose of writing my address, and gave it him; adding that I am in a very humble tenement, but would feel highly honoured if he would favour me with a visit when he had nothing better to do. I perceived a smile play around his lips as he accepted *my card;* and, bowing very politely, said, "he should be very happy."

Having wished him good day, I accompanied my new acquaintance, at his invitation, to a *Restaurant;* where, having plentifully supplied the cravings of a tolerably keen appetite with a *tranche de mouton et sauce aux capres,* as well

as some plum pudding, I accompanied him to his house; where, by way of entertainment, he brought out two rats which he had in a small cage, and showed, on account of their variety of colour (black), and particularly the length of their tails.

He was going to send them down to Yorkshire as a present; but I was not a sufficient virtuoso to admire these little quadrupeds, either for their curious colour or their skin: indeed I entertain so peculiar an antipathy to rats and mice, that I do not know whether I ever observed their colour at all. I was therefore very little amused with them, and thought that he entered too much into "*de-tail.*"

CHAPTER III

A Black Man—A Lady invites me to her House —Evening Prayers at mine Host's—A Female Epicure—A Loving Couple—The Black and Red Wigs—Christmas Day—I leave Bristol —A Thief—The Steam Boat—Make a Catholic Acquaintance—Arrive at Newport—Dine with my new Friends on a Fast Day.

THE next day I went out by ten o'clock, and met a very curious black man, I think from the Sandwich Isles, with his face tattooed in various curved lines, and done with the nicest regularity. He had a large crowd round him gaping at his performances. These consisted in flourishing a large stick, or tomahawk as his interpreter called it, and a native spear, both apparently of English manufacture. He also jabbered something, stamping and shrieking out a *war cry*, as he cut about with his stick in imitation of fighting, greatly to the astonishment of his lookers on.

From whatever barbarous state you come, said I to myself, as I gave him a trifle, you have learnt the civilized art of *how* best to attract attention to serve the purposes of self. You have

therefore dressed yourself thus conspicuously, and play those antics, presuming on the charm of novelty. Your companion speaks French: it may be he who directs, not you yourself; but you are only like myself playing a part, though from a very different cause.

By the time I had arrived at the Royal Crescent, it came on to rain, and I turned into the first place (a shoemaker's) for shelter. A lady in a riding habit came tripping in with all the activity of a young girl, for the same purpose as myself, I presume, although she spoke about her shoes being done.

I was asked by her to play, which I did. She begged I would come to her house some day, and desired the shoemaker to give me her address, and went away. It was Lady S——. The weather continued to be misty, so that I returned to my lodgings, and passed my time in reading.

Before bed time, as usual, we went to prayers, falling on our knees. The methodist was in the middle of an excellent prayer, and as he uttered "by the dull light with which we see our way," his very notable wife took this as a hint, and breaking in upon the solemnity of his discourse, jumped up, and snuffed the candle. The *worthy methodist* looked very much astonished, and I found great difficulty in preventing a laugh.

This woman was a strange creature. Her whole thoughts were on eating and drinking, and she would frequently ask me if we had *turkey and sausages, and plum pudding*, and those ere good things in Spain. I have frequently observed her, much to my amusement, when her spouse would be saying grace before tea, stirring it up with a spoon all the while: she was, however, a very good woman.

The next day was a very wet one, so that I did not venture out, and enjoyed the very interesting society of Mr. L—— and his epicurean wife. The former was, I should think, nearer seventy than sixty, and the latter fifty: but a happier and more loving couple never could be, particularly on the woman's side. She brought out such a vocabulary of tender expressions, and such soft similies, that I thought, to talk fluently the language of love, we ought to go to Cornwall. At every circumstance the good man was pleased to crack his joke (although he was by no means witty); and, on these occasions, she would be sure to bring out some soft effusion of her very sensible heart.

On Christmas day I gave to the methodist (he was positively a very good old man, the very best of the sect that I had ever met) the old black wig, which I took out with me at the commencement of my journey, frizzed out a little, and he

wore it in exchange for a very ugly red one. The old fogy looked quite smart. His wife coming into the room and seeing her spouse so advantageously metamorphosed, exclaimed, "Why's a "darling Jaermes, un does'nt know'm 'gain. He "look uncommon pretty. Eyezum! Crimsums! "If the ladies in the church won't fall in love on "him!" In this style, which I only *attempt* to give language to, for her expressions were so perfectly original, did this woman continue for about ten minutes.

Jaermes taking up a small looking glass in his left hand, and a pocket comb in his right, combed out all the *friz*, and put his hair perfectly straight over his forehead, telling me he should only use my wig on Sundays and holidays; so that James would have the pleasing variety of a carrotty top in the week days. In the forenoon I walked over to the Hotwells, to enquire when the steam vessel would leave for Newport.

I could not well obtain this information in the town, as the office happened to be adjoining a Spanish merchant's, and prudence suggested the necessity of this long walk. I found it left early on the following day, at which time I resolved on leaving Bristol. The rest of the day was passed in reading, and was certainly one of the most quiet Christmas days that I had ever passed.

The next day I started off by half past eight to

the steam vessel. It was under weigh, and I was obliged to take a boat to get on board. My luggage was immediately put into the first at hand, and was very soon taken to the vessel. After I had been on board about three minutes, I remarked I had forgotten the carpet bag, and observed the boatman rowing away as hard as he could. I told the captain of it, and the agile thief was soon hailed, and made to come back. The scoundrel on reaching us looked very much enraged at his disappointment, and threw the bag with violence into the vessel. His temper by no means bettered his position as he drew upon himself the scoffs of every one on board.

"What an excellent treat one would have to "read Don Quixote in Spanish," said a young gentleman in French; and putting on a very demure countenance to avoid any thing like a suspicion of his remark. "Yes," said I, smilingly, "you would indeed: I would recommend you to "learn it." He was *immediately* silent. But it very frequently happened that hints were made at my peculiar dress by quixotic allusions.

There were several Welchmen on board who were greatly engaged in conversation. One of them put a few questions to me in English, and I learnt from him a few complimentary expressions in Welch, which I found at first very difficult to pronounce.

Having a very comfortable seat, and being screened from the wind, which was blowing the spray on the deck, I observed a very decent looking girl close by me, and rather exposed to the spray, so I offered her my place. She thanked me and accepted it, whilst I seated myself beside her. She looked at me rather slyly, and made a cross on her bosom. I immediately made another, when she said she was very happy that I was a catholic, and then giving her young husband a nudge with her elbow, told him I was a catholic, which served for a kind of introduction. He bowed—gave me his hand—and then pulled out a bottle of brandy, which he offered to me. It's well to be a catholic, thought I, and to be so favoured; but I refused. They said they hoped they should have the pleasure of seeing me frequently at Newport, and that I would on my arrival, as I was a stranger, go to their house to dine with them.

It was soon buzzed amongst the catholics on board that I was of their persuasion. The steward, an Irishman, came up, making crosses, and beating his breast, crying out, "*mea culpa, mea culpa,* "*mea maxima culpa.*" I was not however so catholic as to understand this contrite exclamation, which his bad pronunciation rendered more difficult. I therefore only made him several crosses in return.

As my mind reverted to the narrow escape of

my bag, I recollected the stick which I had brought with me from London. I made particular enquiries about it, but it was not to be found on board, and I begged the steward to try to get it for me on his return, for which I would well pay him. He promised me he would, but I never heard any thing more of it.

As it was an old acquaintance, I had habitually acquired a preference for it, and regretted its loss as a something which money could not replace. Indeed it was of considerable use to me in keeping off any offensive people that I was very frequently in the habit of encountering: besides, I had also practised the "cut and thrust" exercises with it, and it had become familiar to my hand, consequently I was better able to use it than any other. However, it was irretrievably lost, and like a true and constant *widower*, I never took unto myself another stick.

In about three hours we crossed the wide Severn, and arrived at the place of destination, making what was called a good passage; but to me, like all sea excursions, a very disagreeable one.

As we worked up the Avon, the lofty hills and uneven rocks were very interesting to the eye, as also the country on the left at the mouth of the river; but directly we came into salt water, these delightful views became insipid, my taste savouring a little of Dr. Johnson's. Immediately on

landing, I gave my luggage to a porter to carry to the nearest inn, and then accompanied my new acquaintances Mr. and Mrs. E—— to their lodgings, which were at a Mrs. ———.

Mrs. E—— proceeded to make arrangements for dinner, first premising that she was very sorry that she could not give me any fish. "Not the "slightest consequence," said I, thinking that my hostess was rather luxurious, and added, "I'm "not very *fond* of fish." In a very few minutes I was begged to draw to the table. I did as requested; but seeing only some buttered toast and some coffee on the table, I felt a little astonished. I thought perhaps it might have been Welch fashion—a substitute for *soup*—and I was assisted to some of this fare. Confound the things, said I to myself, as I recollected that it was *fast day*.

I had never yet been required to do penance in this way, and I felt it peculiarly hard to put up with a horrid toast and coffee dinner, after so long a voyage. I'll turn Protestant, thought I, to-morrow; for to do this requires practice, and it is very easy to call myself a proselyte, like my hostess. But observing that every one present seemed to eat this sort of dinner with a great deal of satisfaction, it acted partly as a stimulus to me, and I managed mechanically to take a sufficiency to satisfy a disappointed appetite.

I little thought when I said that "it's of no

"consequence" to the wanting of fish, that there would be no meat. After this fast meal, we all drew around the fire; and as the subject of "short commons" is most probably as disagreeable to the taste of my readers as to myself, I refer them to the next chapter for the sequel of my adventures in Newport.

CHAPTER IV.

My Hostess accommodates me with an Apartment —The Confessional—Introduced to a Catholic Priest—A moral Reproof—I go to the House of Sir ——— —The Servants' Hall—The Sunday School—I dine with the Priest—I am introduced as a Spanish Nobleman—The Consequence.

"I shall feel particularly obliged," said Mrs. E——, "if you will play your guitar;" and here followed many apologies for the liberty, as well as she possibly could make them. "I shall be "very happy," said I, and immediately played to her. The music brought in my landlady's daughter, who affected a kind of excuse to come in about a cap she held in her hand, and remained some time in the room. You are a fine specimen of the Welch girls, thought I to myself, if they are all like you. She was a remarkably fine, handsome woman.

Mr. E—— very shortly left us to visit a small town at some little distance, it being market day there. He was a *marchand des variétés* in the eatable way. Before he started, however, he

offered me an invitation to dine with him on the following Sunday; begged I would not disturb myself on account of his absence, but remain as long as I liked. I nodded my head, took him at his word, and passed the remainder of the evening very agreeably in company with his little wife.

As I happened to mention that I must go and seek for apartments, a consultation was held between Mrs. E—— and the landlady's daughter: the result of which was that a room was offered me in their house, and I eagerly accepted it, for it was the very thing I wished for.

The next morning, as I was making my way towards my landlady's parlour, I was anticipated by Mrs. E——, who begged me to breakfast there, and then offered her room to my general service. This is exceedingly kind, thought I to myself, though not so very much pleased, thinking of the landlady's daughter. However, I thanked her, and sat myself down at a table, whilst she prepared my breakfast.

The little lady seemed to be in a very happy mood, as she was singing all the time, and whilst I was enjoying the fruits of her trouble, she spoke much of her very industrious husband; praised my music, then touched on her delightful religion, adding she was very glad to find me of the same persuasion; said something about the protestants, and finally expressed a wish that I

should stop a long while. A good compliment never falls unheard on my ears. I returned her civilities as numerously as she gave them, and slightly attempting to repay her for the trouble she had taken in preparing my breakfast, I lent her a hand in taking the things away.

Her apartments were the most convenient I had ever met with; the room was full of cupboards, which were made with considerable neatness, and were scarcely observable. In these she placed various wares; but the eatables went nto a small room adjoining. I was not aware of this until I saw a door open where I *never thought* there was one, and followed her with a large loaf. As I was handing it to her to be placed on the shelf, my hand was unsteady and the loaf rolled on the ground; the door shut at the same time—it might have been the wind — my memory now misgives me in what followed; but I perfectly recollect before she returned to the parlour, she asked me what she possibly could say to the priest at the confessional box. "Pooh! pooh!" said I, "say you have only been hearing Orpheus play "on the Double bass. Priests are too mu-"sical to feel displeased at this on a fast day;" and leaving her to finish the entire removal of the breakfast service, I returned to my own room.

At twelve o'clock I went out with my guitar to reconnoitre the little village, and, from the

few houses I saw, was convinced that I could not remain long in it; but, commencing my minstrel duties, I was very soon undeceived; for at what few there were, I was continually engaged, by the assistance of notes which the inhabitants invariably gave me to each other.

I met nothing of interest in the day, save a Miss H——, who spoke French a little, though very confidently, asked me if I met many persons who spoke *that language*.

Returning to my lodging, the recollection of the horrid toast and coffee dinner of yesterday quite frightened me, so I shammed ill, and ordered some *cotelettes:* which excuse the converted Mrs. E——, said was quite sufficient to warrant a carnous indulgence on a fast day. However, I displayed a most excellent appetite for an invalid, which I think did not escape observation.

In the evening, as I was sipping some very excellent Bohea with the very agreeable Mrs. E. (it may be remembered she presented her apartments for my general use), the landlady's daughter came in, and said that Mr. R——, the catholic priest, was at the door, when Mrs. E.——, jumped up with a great deal of delight to receive him.

I thought it most judicious to remove my chair a little further from the spot I was then sitting at. " Señor de Vega," said Mrs. E——, as the young

priest entered, meaning it as an introduction. We bowed, and I expressed to him great pleasure in meeting with an Irish catholic priest. "Indeed," I added, "we consider you as our "own countrymen." He smiled, and paid me a similar compliment, and presented his hand to me. He asked me if I could speak Latin. I replied a little; and he immediately commenced the conversation in that language.

His style of speaking was so different to the ostentatious pedant of Bath, and he expressed himself with all that ease, which evidently proved that he had been much in the habit of it; and I was pleased rather than otherwise in talking to him, notwithstanding I felt my own imperfections in the course of our conversation.

He spoke of the grievances of his nation, and against the English protestants; at which I affected surprise, when he observed, "Well in-"deed may a foreigner be surprised when he is "told that an Irish catholic may not hold a "place in office in his *own* country which is a "*catholic* one." I could not but think that he had strong *reason indeed* to complain. He rose very soon to take his leave, but first very politely invited me to dine with him the next day, which I declined from being already engaged, and shaking hands he wished me good night. The good priest having backed out I returned to my former place. It is surprising what these re-

verend gentlemen do effect in the minds of their flock.

The little woman, after sitting beside me and paying the greatest attention to every thing I had to say to her, suddenly got up, went to the mantle-piece, and returned with a prayer book, which she opened, and said, "Read this," pointing to *one* of the commandments. I looked at it and was *at first* much astonished, doubting whether she was in earnest; but I answered, shrugging up my shoulders, I don't understand English. She explained it, but I still affected not to comprehend her, though in about five minutes after I framed some slight excuse, and retired for the night; for being a great admirer *of that particular* commandment, I thought it better she should profit by the priest's visit.

The following day, Sunday, I went off to the catholic chapel with the E——s, and, being perfectly unacquainted with the ceremonies, I placed myself beside Mrs. E——, and took her as my pattern on every occasion we had to rise, sit, or make crosses. The priest became his robes remarkably well. He was a very handsome fellow, by the bye, and I thought looked better than when in his ordinary dress. He made a most admirable extempore sermon to his congregation, which consisted principally of working people, who seemed to pay the most earnest attention to his discourse.

The next day was passed in giving the landlady's daughter *particular* instructions how to make me some new shirts. Mrs. E—— observing me less in her parlour, and suspecting the cause, began to talk scandal against the pretty *couturière*. "But that's of no consequence," said I. "Indeed it is," said the little woman. "I assure you all I say is true, and it is only on "your account that I tell you, to put you on your "guard." "I doubt not for a moment your "sincere intentions," said I; and was fingering a loaf that was close by me on a plate until it rolled off. She extended her hand to lay hold of it, and *just* as it was at the edge of the table she *caught* it. Her friendly advice ceased, and, as if some particular idea had struck her, she immediately spoke about something else. I do not recollect her having counselled me again on this head.

I had heard of a baronet in the neighbourhood, who was in the habit every winter of entertaining a great many of his London acquaintance, and giving several masquerades on the occasion. I thought it would perhaps be worth my while to go there, and accordingly asked some of the persons I had become acquainted with for a letter to this very hospitable mansion.

A Mrs. H——— favoured me with one, and I started off in the morning. About half an hour brought me to the door of the curious looking

house; the exterior of which did not bear the most favourable appearance. Knocking at the door, a powdered servant made his appearance, and I gave him the letter I had, and was about to give him an explanation with it. He took it in his hand, examined the superscription, paused, as if to reflect; then said, "If you'll wait a bit, I'll "see if it's right," and went away.

I walked into the hall, which I found very spacious, ornamented with a variety of emblems of the country sports. Things should not be judged of by outside appearances, thought I, and suddenly a little square built gentleman came up to me with, "Hallo, master, what do you "want? you mus'nt be here, go round the other "way." I attempted to explain in French, but he could not understand; and I should have been obliged to have gone round the other way, had not another gentleman entered and cleared up the point. He begged me to follow him, and conducted me through a large parlour into a room that was filled with paintings. Here all the visitors came to hear me play, and I easily perceived that there was no masquerade.

I was desired to be seated, and was going to sit down in a red morocco chair, when the little gentleman, already alluded to, cried out, "Don't "sit there;" and pointed to a common wicker one. I could not help smiling at his vulgarity as I seated myself according to his directions.

My auditors were rather numerous, consisting

of several ladies and gentlemen; but they were very taciturn, and expressed their satisfaction principally by signs. I won't pretend to account for the reason, but I felt glad to retire as soon as possible; and it was not long before the baronet's son gave me a sovereign, adding that they were very much pleased, and if I would like to take any refreshment, the servants would provide me.

Having made my bow, I followed a servant through several passages, and at last found myself in a very large dining room below stairs, where seventy or eighty people were sitting down to dinner. I was conducted to a table, and a large plate piled up with meat and potatoes was brought to me. I just took a small piece, and pushed the rest away, for I was not hungry. I was surrounded on all sides by these genii, several of whom were of the female gender; and one said, observing me push the plate away, "It's very nice and fresh, it was killed to-day; "but, perhaps, poor fellow," addressing herself to the rest, "they don't eat pigs'-fry in his country." I assured the girl that I had had quite *enough*, and very soon took my leave.

On my way back I met the worthy priest, with whom I went on the following day to see the children of the Sunday school.

As we entered the school, I found it very much crowded; but, under the guidance of my worthy friend, room was made for me, and I was con-

ducted to a seat, and the priest placed himself beside me.

Custom had made me perfectly indifferent to the general stare which was immediately directed towards me; but the priest could not well stand such a concentration of mortal gazes, and I perceived he was rather embarrassed. Amongst the company were several ladies from the baronet's house, and they, whose glances I happened to meet, honoured me with their most amiable recognition.

The ceremonies of the day had already commenced. The examiner of the children was a clergyman, and busily engaged catechising them.

Observing the baronet's son, I bowed, and he entered into conversation with me. Several other gentlemen joined us; and, with my friend R——'s Latin, I found myself conversing in four different languages.

The examination being over, some mince pies were distributed according to the general practice, of which I partook at the invitation of the heir of ———, who observed, "that we had "not pastry like that in Spain." And after having demolished the half of one, I said, "Vos minci-"pies Anglois sont tres bons."

A person now got up, the school master I presume, and read a paper, in which he returned thanks to the patrons and patronesses of the school, and particularly addressed himself to the

baronet, whose liberality was the chief support of the charity. A little, round-faced, jolly, good-natured looking gentleman, then rose to acknowledge the compliment.

He spoke a good deal about feeling highly honoured by the ladies and gentlemen, and gave evident signs, he was "no orator, as Brutus is." He afforded me a great deal of amusement, and I asked the priest who he was. "That is the "baronet himself," said he. At this reply, I could not resist a smile, when he added, "Non "Cicero est, Domine."

A lottery for a variety of trinkets followed, but Mr. R—— and myself retired to his house, as the dinner hour was approaching. He gave me a very excellent dinner, and capital wine. We chatted on a variety of subjects, to the pleasures of which the wine contributed wonderfully.

I found him the pleasantest fellow in the world. After dinner he said grace, and made a cross, which I immediately imitated. He showed me a very pretty white surplice wrapped up in silver paper and carefully preserved in a box: this, he told me, was presented to him by a lady. "This is a proof how much you must be be-"loved," said I, "by your congregation;" and then cautiously changed the subject of our conversation, lest he should enter more largely upon that of his religion, for I was at the time very little acquainted with it.

"What a strange fellow the baronet is," said I to him; "I know but little of your language certainly, but I should not think he was much accustomed to speaking." "No," said he, "as I already observed, *non Cicero est.* He is a member of parliament though, and the only motion he was ever known to make was on being annoyed by draught from a broken window; he rose and moved, that, 'this window be '*immediately* repaired;'" I laughed heartily at the anecdote, and after amusing ourselves at the baronet's expense, Mr. R—— by way of reparation, related a variety of his excellent qualities, and then favoured me with a specimen of his own vocal powers as well as his talent on the flute. In return I played my guitar, and passed a very agreeable evening until seven, when I excused myself to attend an appointment I had made with E—— J——, who I found had made her very best toilette to receive me; and I should have passed a much more agreeable time, had not my neighbour Mrs. E—— been so over attentive to me.

The next day a Mrs. W. and sister called on me, and wished me to go to their house. I went, and as usual I took out my guitar to play to them, when Mrs. W. told her sister, who spoke French, to tell me she had invited me to tea, but not on account of my music. So the guitar was laid aside, and a general conversation ensued.

Mr. W. entered the room, and I was intro-

duced to him as Señor Don Juan de Vega, a Spanish nobleman. A gentleman in the room became very sentimental on my account, and spoke much about the ups and downs of this world, the hardship of being exiled for fighting for one's liberty, &c.; "I'm very sorry indeed," said Mrs. W., "that I allowed him to play at "the window; but I did not know it, although "I suspected he was something more than com- "mon." She begged her sister to explain this, adding, "Tell him for the future, he should knock "at the door." The sister explained as well as she could, whilst Mrs. W., through the medium of her looks, tried to make me understand more perfectly. I returned her many thanks for the interest she was taking, and the visit passed off tolerably pleasant.

The evening of the next day I passed at Mr. P——'s, an attorney, whom I found a very generous person. He offered me any money that I might have wanted. Since my arrival I had gained a great deal more than I expected, and refused his offer. He also introduced me to Mr. P——, who invited me to dine with him on following day.

I wrote till very late at night in my room, and at half-past twelve had occasion to go down stairs to get another candle; when my nasal powers were greeted with a very strong flavour of cooking. Entering Mrs. E——'s room, I per-

ceived her frying at a famous rate some beef steakes, and I laughed very much at the idea of her watching for the twelfth hour to strike, that she might indulge in a little meat.

At four, according to promise, Mr. P—— called on me, and we went off to his friend's, at whose house I found that I had already paid a visit with my guitar, and received a half crown from a very pretty young lady. I was received by Mr. P—— with great politeness, and he introduced me to his lady, and a friend of his, Mr. B——.

It was not long before dinner was announced. We sat down to a most luxurious repast consisting of every thing in season, and the champagne went very freely round. When the dessert came on, according to the country fashion we drank to each other, and after the ladies retired to the drawing room the gentlemen drew round the fire.

The conversation now turned on Spain and the late revolution. On this subject I found Mr. B—— well versed, as well as in history of all kind. He was, as I suspected, a counsellor: he spoke French remarkably well, but Mr. P—— did not, a circumstance I much regretted. "Come "gentlemen," said he, "I'll give you a toast— "'Here's to a speedy advancement of affairs in "'Spain beneficially to the emigrants in this "'country.'" This was drank with great fervour, and I felt it my duty to make some little acknow-

ledgment; and in broken English, which I could speak almost with as much ease as good, I said, "Gentlemen, I infiniment oblige for your wish "my country, but with your ass-istance, I think "it prob-able that it will soon ar-rive." "Bravo, "Señor," said Mr. P——; "you'll soon learn "English. Come, you must give us a toast." "Here's to the health of Sir Robert Wilson," said I; and the health of this gallant officer was drank with general satisfaction.

They then joked me about E—— J——, little thinking that she had told me the list of her cavaliers; and I knew that they had both been attentive to her, particularly Mr. P——, who was in fact, so *excessivement ardent*, that her mother had asked him, what were his *real intentions*.

Tea was announced, and we went to the drawing room. We had a little music on the pianoforte, and I contributed my share with the guitar. As I was desirous of returning home rather *early*, I excused myself as soon as I could. Mr. P— shook hands with me very kindly, and begged I would call on him before I left the town.

The following day I resolved on leaving Newport; and passed the forenoon with E—— J——, using all my eloquence to induce her to accompany me to see the mountains of the interior. She listened attentively, sighed, and talked about

breaking her mother's heart, which made me turn vastly moral—so said no more about it.

The time soon arrived for me to leave, and I shook hands with Mr. E——, Mrs. P——, and then, *oh, Dieu!* I had to take farewell of the daughter. "So you are positively determined to go. "We shall never, never see you again." "Alas! "I must," I despairingly replied. "You might "stop a little longer?" "Not one day, I'm "sorry to say," I answered. "Adieu;" said I, "I "shall see you again shortly;" and giving her one *Platonic* kiss, I went away. Just as I was turning the street at the bottom of the hill, I looked back, and saw E—— J—— standing at the door. She waved her handkerchief to me; I waved mine in return, and the scene closed.

No sooner had I arrived at the inn, where the coach started from, than Mr. R—— entered after me. "I am very happy to see you," said I, "before "I leave; but I left a letter at your house to say "that I was going, which I presume you have "received." "No, indeed," he replied, "but "seeing you in the street, I came after you." "You are very kind," said I, "I have come for "the coach; but it is not ready, and if agreeable, "we will walk about the town, and we pro- "ceeded out."

I observed Mr. P—— walking after me, I

stopped, he shook hands very kindly with me, and I introduced him to my friend Mr. R——. "I want "him to come to see me this evening," said he to Mr. R—. "He's going to leave for Pont-y-pool," replied the other, almost immediately. "Never "mind," said Mr. P—, "I want to know what I "can do for him. He must go to my tailor's and "order any thing he wants, or else he must do me "the favour to accept the *loan* of five sovereigns "(for I know the spirit of Spaniards), and he can "return it when he goes back to his own country. "Upon my word," continued he, "I felt so much "for him that I have been thinking about him all "night."

Mr. R— explained this in Latin, and I assured Mr. P— that I did not require any assistance, and begged he would not distress himself on my account. "Tell him," said he, to Mr. R—, "that "he must accept my card, and if he should ever "be in want of money to write to me; and when "he returns to Newport he must come and take "his breakfast, dinner—in fact, live at my house: "and if you will accompany him, Sir, I shall feel "most happy to see you. Pray tell him this, Sir, "and I will see you again." He extended his hand to me, and fervently pressing mine bade me adieu. Generous man! I think I do not over-rate the feelings, with which I perceived him struggling on my account, when I affirm that a tear lingered in his eye; and I was equally dis-

tressed to have caused him so much anxiety. Mr. R— and myself continued our way towards the inn, and he repeated to me all the generous protestations of Mr. P—.

As we were in the inn, this gentleman came and called out Mr. R—. He returned, first saying he was going to Pont-y-pool next week, and then presented me with a sovereign which Mr. P— had given him for me. I said to him I wished he had not received it, as I did not require it; but mine was a kind of *nolens volens* sort of case, and was finally obliged to take it.

I was now introduced to a Mr. C— who was going to, and lived at Pont-y-pool; he invited me to dine with him on our arrival. The coach was soon ready, and leaving my address with the worthy priest, I shook hands with him fervently, and bade a *vale Domine.*

CHAPTER V.

Arrive at Pont-y-pool—Spanish Sports—The Iron Foundry—Tin Manufactory—Unfortunate Costume—The Coal Mine—An Iron Mine—A Visit from Newport—An Affecting Letter—A Reply—A Cambrian Beauty—The Race—A Japan Manufactory—A Welch Servant—Innocent Drink—An Irish Wedding—Religious Discussion with a Jew.

I WAS seated on the top of the coach between two large women; and, from the narrowness of the vehicle, my position was by no means an agreeable one; but immediately on getting out of the valley, I found the wind blew so high and keen, that I was rather glad of it.

We soon arrived at Pont-y-pool, and Mr. C— took me to the Lion Inn, as the one which the priest always frequented. I spoke about some apartments, and he sent out for a person he knew who had some. This man shortly made his appearance, and I arranged with him for a bed room, and then accompanied Mr. C— to his house. I was introduced to his brother and a visitor. After dinner, the conversation turned on the amuse-

ments of Spain, and I took it upon myself to describe a bull-fight with all the animation I could, from having frequently heard my Spanish friends in town give descriptions of them.

They were much pleased with this account, and I was asked if the Spaniards did not fight with knives. " They do," said I, " but it is in " lieu of your fists, and only amongst the lower " orders; though they fight with science and " dexterity. Around the left arm they wrap the " cloak in various folds, which is held in front, " as a guard to their person, and as occasion offers, " they make use of the knife in the right hand, " taking care not to aim at a mortal part; should " either party run away, the other, by striking " the knife-hand suddenly above the wrist with " the left, gives the dagger such well directed " impetus, that it is sure to strike in the part " aimed at;" and, suiting the action to the word, I threw the knife I held in my hand into the opposite wainscoating.

The evening of the following day I went to the Messrs. C——'s. One of them was at home, and I proposed to pay a visit to his Welch friend, who lived a short distance from the village. He immediately assented, and we proceeded to his house. On our way we passed a large iron foundry where the men were at work. It is the custom here to work night and day, and a great number of furnaces were burning, with the fire

issuing from the tops of the chimneys, accompanied by volumes of sparks, which gave it a very curious appearance. I asked my friend to conduct me close to it that I might have a closer inspection.

Begging me carefully to follow his footsteps, for the night was extremely dark, he conducted me safely to a manufactory, where I was much astonished at the fiery appearance of every thing around me. The immense red hot furnaces, vomiting into the dark air myriads of sparks, put me in mind of the wars of the Cyclops. The groaning of their huge bellows, worked by a water power, which splashed its inharmonious notes of triumph—the busy occupation of the broiling workmen, dragging the ponderous iron like a sacrifice to an immense hammer of three tons weight, which beat away in constant motion, reminded me of "Pluto's empire." The silent darkness of the night, and the strong electric flashes of this Promethean element, amidst the noisy clamour of this mighty business, produced an effect as strange as awfully terrific.

The following day I went to Mr. C——, as I was desirous of seeing the tin and iron manufactory. He introduced me to his friend Mr. W. G., who very politely offered to show me his large establishment. On our way my notice was attracted to a small rivulet, which was bedded with stones of a yellow colour, caused by the strong impregnation of iron which the water contained.

At the tin manufactory, my attention was first directed to the very rapid process of flatting the iron into sheets, by means of rollers worked by water. After this they are taken into another room, where about seventy or eighty women and boys are at work, and by them dipped into some kind of mixture to take off the rust; they then pass through the hands of two or three scourers, and then to the person who plated it with tin. This process is effected simply by dipping them into the molten metal, from which they are passed through three different persons, hands to be successively cleaned with bran; and the third cleansing renders them fit for the market.

We now walked over to the iron works. There I was amused with another style of compressing the iron. The machinery as before was worked with water. The heated iron was placed between two rollers, which, by its rotary motion, carried it on to the other side. Here was a boy prepared with a pair of forceps; and, with great adroitness, returned it, by placing it on the top of the roller, which carries the iron the same way it revolves. It is again passed under a smaller groove, and after passing through four of gradual dimensions; which is done in the space of a few seconds; the iron, which was at first about three feet long, is flattened into twelve.

I was also much pleased with the facility with which the iron was cut by machinery. Iron, of

about half an inch in thickness, was divided as easily as I would cut paper with a pair of scissars. Mr. W. G. was particularly attentive to me in explaining the principles of the works, and pointing out any thing that he thought would be of interest.

I went in the evening to a small tea party, which Mr. W. G. had been so polite as to invite me to, and spent the time very pleasantly. There was a very pretty girl there, the daughter of a barrister, who sung very delightfully; and, when the party broke up, I found she and her sister were minus a cavalier to escort them home. She only lived, however, a few yards off. I was just going to volunteer my services, but the recollection of my dress, stopped me. I was therefore obliged, although I do not consider myself *over diffident*, to forego the pleasure, remain silent, and perhaps be considered ungallant, for I could not muster sufficient assurance in my present attire.

I accompanied Mr. C. in a visit to the British iron works at Abersuccomb, about three miles distant. There I beheld every thing I had seen at Mr. G.'s on a larger scale. The building was immense, and several hundred people were employed in it. I was introduced to the manager, who took a great deal of trouble to show me the immense steam engines, which were of 109 horse power each, for supplying the various furnaces with wind.

Their gigantic size, and the great noise they made in their operations, had at first a terrific appearance. After I became accustomed to it, I began to admire its elegant and scientific structure; whilst the director took considerable pains to explain all the minutiæ of its superiority.

I went up a flight of stairs to inspect it from top to bottom. These steps were entirely of iron, as well as the balusters: the floors were kept in most excellent order, and possessing a very pretty and light appearance. There were two men employed to keep the engines clean: one of them was at his duty whilst I was there, seated on the principal lever. I was at first fearful for his safety, and mentioned it to the director; but he was of course accustomed to his employment, and continued his work with as much calmness as if the engine had been still.

I was now invited by the manager to visit the coal mine, which I very readily accepted. He asked which way of entrance I should prefer; by the level, or by the well. I chose the latter, and we proceeded accordingly to the spot. Some miners were going down, and we waited until a load was landed.

The descent was by means of slings, so that as one went down the other came up. Here a person is placed to regulate the rapidity of its action. The wells are but a few feet apart bricked all the way down. The scales being

prepared I stepped in, in company with the director, first leaving my cloak behind, and we descended at the rate of a smart horse trot.

On coming to the bottom, a lighted candle was put into my hands, and the director taking one led me along a shaft, which he selected as being the cleanest. I observed a little girl standing with a lighted candle in her hand, whose occupation I learned was to open the door into a particular shaft, to let the horses pass and repass. We continued; and the roof becoming very low, I was obliged to stoop.

At last we arrived where some men were working, and on approaching them, the roof being still very low, the director seated himself on the coal; so I followed his example. They were going to blast a piece of coal down about five yards off, and being already in for a dirty trip, I crawled on all fours to examine the method of doing it. A certain space is undermined, and a little hole bored as deep as the undermining: a charge of powder, about a quarter of an ounce, is then inserted at the bottom of the cavity with an iron rod, which is also left in: some very small coal dust is then forced in around it as tight as possible. This being done, the rod is withdrawn, leaving a communication to introduce the match light.

In the course of this operation my attention was also greatly drawn to the strange appearance

of the miners, about a dozen in number, all squatted down. Each man had his lighted candle in his hand, and some were provided with one in reserve, stuck crossways in their small caps. The faces of these subterranean bipeds were well suited to their employment; and the gloomy appearance of the coal gave me I think a pretty correct idea of Telemachus's visit to Pluto's regions in search of his father.

The mine being charged, a squib was put in at the mouth of it, when we all placed ourselves in security. A man now lit a straw, which burnt long enough to give him time to secure a safe retreat, when the mine exploded, and to my astonishment about a ton of coal was blown down.

We now proceeded back to the entrance, where we had to wait until some tons of coal were carried up. This was done by the simple and economical principle of putting a greater weight in the opposite scale, and as this came down we stepped in, and in a few seconds were conveyed to the top.

Seeing the director was covered with coal, I apologized for having caused him to dirty his clothes on my account. He smiled, pointed to myself, and said that he was frequently in the habit of making such excursions. Thanking him for his polite attention, I gave him my address, and receiving his I returned to the village.

On the following day I went according to my

appointment to Mr. W. G., and we proceeded to the iron mine. Mr. G. was so polite as to have a tram nicely cleaned; some seats put in it, and straw placed at the bottom for our feet. Each taking a lighted candle, we got in, and at a smart walking pace the horse drew us along. After going horizontally about three hundred yards, the road divided; one to the coal, the other to the iron mine. We made for the latter, and after we had proceeded about fifty yards we got out, and took the direction of another shaft up a hill. I was happy to find the roads clean, as those at the coal mine at Abbersuccomb were horribly dirty. The guide explained to me the nature of the iron vein, which ran about three and a half to four inches thick. Mr. G. and his friend busily employed themselves in examining some of the ore.

I heard the words "fine" and "rich" occasionally uttered, which was entirely Greek to me, as I could not discriminate the ore from the earth that surrounded it. Indeed the iron appeared to *me* so small in quantity, and such a trouble to get it, that I observed it appeared to me almost useless to take the pains of working; but I was astonished to hear from the guide that a man could get half a ton a day with ease, and that the mine was generally considered a rich one. I almost began to attach the value of gold to iron for the immense trouble that was taken to obtain it. We visited two or three more shafts, and then re-

turned. On coming out, I found the atmosphere excessively cold, as the temperature of the mine was warm, and never varies all the year round. I now visited another iron and coke manufactory, and then returned to my lodgings.

As I was walking down to my dinner, in came Mr. E—— from Newport with a small parcel from E—— J——; I begged him to dine with me. Mr. R—— the priest from Newport also entered; he shook my hand most cordially, and we went into the first floor to discuss the news. I learnt from him that he had lately been nearly killed by a tumble from his horse. He left me to go to his hotel, and I promised to see them both after dinner.

I now opened E—— J——'s parcel, there was a letter in it: it commenced with saying she had sent me the remainder of some Irish linen with which she had to make the collars of my shirts, and then finished by inviting me back; adding that her mamma's house was at my service, and Mrs. E—— had desired her to say the same respecting hers. Poor thing! I had by this time almost forgotten her. E—— pressed me to return. I said it was impossible. "I assure "you," said he, shaking his head, "E—— (to use "his own expression) is in a poor way, she has been "quite down hearted ever since you left, and refuses "to eat her *meals*. Her mother does not know what "ails her, but I do: it's only your return can cure "her." This was too much for me to bear; and

I clapped my cotton handkerchief up to my eyes, and peeped at the herald of love through my fingers. I said I would retire, in order that I might be more composed in writing her a letter.

I went into the landlord's room to write. At first I scarcely knew what to say; but at last penned the following letter:

"January 11th, 1829.

"My dear E—— J——;

"Is folie for me come Newport, "for I be more in love. If you love me, as me you, "you take de coachee, and come Pont-y-pool; if "you don't I die.

"Youre affectionate Sweethearte,

"Juan de Vega."

This *billet doux* was sealed, and delivered to Mr. E——, whom I begged to say "mille choses "de ma parte" to her. He promised me faithfully to execute my wishes, and set off for Newport. The next day I called on R——, we agreed to take a ride to Uske, a small town about seven miles distant. He ordered his horse, and we went over to A——'s to get one for me, which he had already said was at my service whenever I felt disposed to ride. On arriving here I stated the object of my call, and was requested to walk into the parlour, whilst the horse was got ready. Here I met his sister, to whom

I made my bow, and immediately entered into conversation with her. Her manners were exceedingly *naïve;* her countenance was interesting, possessing a most luxuriant bloom, and I thought her a very fair specimen of Cambrian beauty.

The horse was very soon announced as ready, but this was not the case with his intended rider, for I had become too much pleased with the young lady to leave her so soon; and continued my conversation so long, that my worthy friend became impatient, and came into the room, saying, "Come, "Domine, it will be late, and we must be off." A short time after I rose and wished Miss A—— good day.

To my great satisfaction I found the horse was one that A—— had given a hundred guineas for, and a fine handsome creature he was. "I think "he will be too restive for you," said the priest. "You had better take mine." "You are *too* "*kind*," said I, looking very significantly at his little cob, and we galloped off. As I passed the D——'s house, I saw one of his daughters, and enquired after her sister, the pretty one I had met at Mr. G——'s party.

As we proceeded through the town, all the good folks stared at me with "wondring eyes." On our way my friend spoke of his horse's excellent paces. I invited him to race; "Very well," said he. He went off at full speed; for awhile I kept backward, and then giving him the rein, my horse

went off in beautiful style, and very soon left the Reverend a long way behind me.

Arriving at Uske, we put up our horses, and proceeded to a house belonging to Mr. R———. He knocked for some time very violently at the door, when the servant, an old Irish woman, called out "I am ill;" and the priest immediately went up stairs. In a short time he returned, saying, that his servant was so ill that we could not have any refreshment. He conducted me to the house of a friend of his, but he was not at home. We then met his friend Mr. M———, who invited us to his residence. I was introduced to the sister of my very generous friend Mr. P——— of Newport; and I did not fail to tell her how much I felt myself indebted to him for his attentions, whilst I was there. Some luncheon was served up, after which we took a walk to the japan manufactory. On our way, as the priest always spoke Latin, Mr. M——— conversed with us in the same language, and asked me how it was I pronounced the Latin in the English style. I did not quite expect so much scrutiny from this gentleman, but I was not at a loss. I replied, "It was that the English should understand me the better."

We went over the manufactory, where I was shown the various styles of japanning, and was very much pleased.

We now mounted our horses, and galloping

out of the town fell in with several Welch ponies, with wooden pack saddles and long logs tied across their backs, threatening destruction to every living thing they might encounter.

They reminded me of the "burros" and mules in Columbia, where from the irregularity of the paths in the woods, they carry their loads in the very same way; and if the men had had a poncho, or Columbian cloak, they would also have resembled the muleteers. "Domine," said my friend, "will you dine with me to day? I am "going to have a beef steak, for I feel very un- "well, and I have already abstained from meat "for two days." "Thank you — no," said I, "for "I *never* eat meat on a *fast-day;* but I am sorry "to hear you say you are unwell, and I think "your taking it will do you good." He nodded his head in approbation, looking rather languid, and his hand fell to his heart.

I returned to A——'s, where I passed the evening. He made up a large bowl of English red wine punch, which I thought rather good, and partook of several glasses. His sister, he informed me, was on a visit; and, taking advantage of her absence, I hinted to my friend that I was greatly fatigued. He invited me to lie down on the sofa, which indulgence I readily availed myself of, begging he would pardon the familiarity, and managed to while away two or three hours listening to some Welch songs, which he sang

with a great deal of spirit, and I then went to bed.

I had not been on horseback for a long time, and my fatigue in consequence was the greater. I awoke the next morning with a very bad headache, and rang the bell for the servant. She was a Welch girl about sixteen years of age, and I heard her knock at her master's door and inform him that I had *rung the bell;* at which I could not help laughing, notwithstanding my illness.

In a few minutes A—— very kindly entered. "I am very ill," said I, "what medicines have you?" He expressed his most unfeigned regret, and he enumerated several. I fixed upon the common Epsom salts. He made a most excellent nurse, and paid me a great deal of attention; but I suffered so much in the early part of the morning that I took the liberty of d——g, pretty frequently, his British compound, which he recommended as a harmless beverage.

I got up in the middle of the day, and found myself considerably better. I took a slight breakfast, and heard that the priest had called for me on his way to chapel. I paid him a visit, when he said he had a particular favour to ask me in the evening at seven, and begged me to be at home at that time.

At six o'clock he came. His particular business was this:—Two Irish people of his flock had been breaking one of the commandments, and

were rendered very unhappy by the scoffs of their neighbours. They were now desirous to atone for "their naughtiness" by a secret marriage, and as it was necessary to have a witness to make the contract good, he asked me to accompany him to their house where he was going to make them *one;* assuring me they were very good persons, and thought it would be a charity to unite them.

I of course felt happy in any opportunity to oblige him, and promised the closest secrecy. On our way to these sinners, the kind priest asked me if I wanted any money, and made me an offer of any I might require, adding, that he felt persuaded I must stand in need of it; but I assured him I was very well provided, and we soon arrived at our journey's end.

Mr. R—— told the Irishman that I was the gentleman (a Spaniard), who had come to assist him in the performance of the marriage, and would keep it secret. The man bowed and thanked me, and then presented me with a chair. It was settled that it would be most private to go up stairs. On entering the room the woman threw herself down on her knees beside the bed, as if to pray, and then got up again. Mr. R—— put on his canonicals; and, desiring them to kneel, with great becomingness read through the marriage prayers, and the two sinners promised to remain *good,* and be every thing that was kind towards each other. In a few minutes

they were man and wife, and the priest shook hands with them, wishing them every happiness.

"You must drink our healths." "Very well," said the priest in a very gracious manner, and he asked me to do so. "I'm very unwell," I replied; "but out of regard to the new married "couple, I will take a little." The priest observed to these people, that as I felt ill I could not drink; at least it must be very little, and "sure," says the bride, who was nearer fifty than forty, "It'll do him a great deal of good; for 'twill "comfort his stomach, and it's an excellent drap "o'rum too." Mr. B—— requested that they might drink with us, to do which more water was required. "Do you go, my dear," said the bride to the bridegroom, "and fetch a drap of hot water;" and "d——n it can't you go yourself," was the honey-moon reply. "Well now," said she, "don't let us quarrel as soon as we are married." This interlude being finished, the remaining part of the *awful* ceremony was concluded, and we left the loving couple.*

The next day, January 13, I was still unwell, and remained in my room all the early part of the day. For a change in the afternoon, I went out to the Jew's, whose acquaintance I had already made. Knowing that Spaniards are not much liked by these people, I made myself as agreeable as possible, and passed several compliments on their industry and perseverance. "How is it

" possible," said I, " that so many of your per-
" suasion walk about the streets, crying ' old
" ' clothes,' yet manage to get a livelihood by it."
" 'Tis but a scanty one, indeed," said he ; " and
" there are many, I assure you, who are half
" starving. They follow this calling because they
" are brought up to no particular trade."

" I remark a trait in them," said I, " which is
" very prominent : that is, I have never seen a
" Jew beggar." " Oh, yes, they do beg some-
" times," said he, " but never of Christians ; and
" as soon as they can scrape up a shilling or two,
" they buy scissars, pencils, &c., &c., and if they
" can get two-pence or three-pence a day, they
" prefer it to begging."

" You have alms' houses, then," said I, " for your
" poor and superannuated ?" " None," said he ;
" but those persons who are so old as to be unable
" to work, and without money, go to the priests
" and state their distress, which is immediately
" investigated ; and if they are considered de-
" serving, are sent off to the Rabbi (a high priest),
" who immediately gives a regular weekly allow-
" ance from ten to twelve shillings a week out of
" a fund supported by voluntary contributions for
" this particular purpose. Mr. Rothschild," con-
tinued he, " always gives an annual donation of
" five hundred pounds, and the rest of his family
" contribute very handsomely to it."

I asked him if his priests followed any business.

"Sometimes," he replied, "but they are gene-"rally paid very handsomely, and are not ne-"cessitated to do so. The Rabbi receives one "thousand a year, and on no account enters into "any mercantile transaction. The other priests, "in ordinary, receive from one to three hundred, "so that there is no great reason for their engaging "in any other calling."

"Pray," said I, commencing the subject of religion: "do persons of your persuasion, in the "anticipation of eternal bliss in the time to come, "place reliance on any mediator to lessen the "sins which they may have committed, after the "manner that we do in our Saviour?" "No," he replied, rather indignant at the idea; "we suffer "for ourselves, and would not allow another to "suffer for us. We have a prophet called Moses, "but I don't place my trust in him for salvation. "It is in my own conduct that I look for reward. "If good, my God will reward me, and, if bad, "punish me: for I have the power of discerning "right from wrong, and if I do wrong, and know "it to be so, I deserve to be punished."

"I admire your principle," said I, "of trusting "to your own good conduct; but human nature "is so frail at times that she has not sufficient "resolution to withstand her own inclinations, "and she requires the assistance of a mediator "for absolution from her frailties." "In these "misfortunes," said he, "we look to the clemency

" of our Creator for pardon, who is much better " acquainted with our virtues and vices than we " ourselves." I perceived this descendant of Israel had rather the better of the argument, and I thought it most prudent to change the discourse.

" I trust," said I, " you will pardon the liberty " of my enquiring into your tenets; but it arises " from an admiration of them, and not from an " idle curiosity." " Certainly," said he, " I feel " a pleasure in answering any question you may " choose to ask." " You are very polite," said I, " and if you *will pardon* me, I should much like " to know the reason why you have your hats on " in your synagogues." " Because," replied he, " our prophet Moses always addressed his con- " gregation with his hat on; but, from another " and a better reason, because we don't know why " we should take it off. The hat is worn not for " ornament only, but for warmth; and why should " you take off your hat in particular, as an indi- " cation of piousness, when you enter the church " with your great coat on." " We," said I, " from a common sense of respect to our fellow " creatures, take off our hats in saluting them: " we therefore feel it an imperative duty when " addressing our God." " Your intention," said he, " I doubt not may be very pious, but custom " is the only cause for the ceremony."

I was very much pleased with his style of argument, and then continued:—

" Do you ever think of again recovering Jeru-
" salem, and becoming a distinct nation? or does
" the contemplation of this afford you any conso-
" lation?" " We do expect it," said he, " and
" wish it: there is a continual correspondence on
" the subject kept up between us and the priests
" in Jerusalem." " But by what means?" I asked.
" When we become sufficiently rich we will raise
" powerful armies to recover it; but I hope it will
" never happen in my time, as the carnage and
" slaughter will be dreadful."

CHAPTER VI.

The conversation continued with the Jew—The L—— Inn—The Confession—The Priest and the Layman—A Drunken Engineer—Welch Songs—A Welch Rarebit—Origin of the Mouse Trap—A Visit to the Iron Smelting House—Generosity of the Director—I am taken for a Mexican Agent by the Miners—My Introduction to the D——s—The Peeled Orange.

HE went out of the room for a minute, and returned with a glass of liquor, which he called anniseed, and presented it to me. "You are "very kind," said I; "but I'm an invalid, and "dare not take it." "It's very mild," said he, "and will not hurt you." To refuse I thought perhaps would have displeased, so I just sipped of it. I could not help smiling at this circumstance, which I clearly saw was the effect of my free and rather complimentary manner of discussing with him: at which time I did not think I was addressing myself to his heart as well as his understanding.. But it was very evident I had obtained his friendship, which I am convinced an order for his whole stock would not have done.

His partner shortly came in: we shook hands together. The other spoke to him in German, and from their countenances I presume he was relating the circumstances of our recent conversation; as, when he had finished speaking, the stranger again put out his hand and pressed me to sup with them. I declined, observing that I was engaged, and passed away another half hour with them in light sort of conversation; during which time they taught me a few German expressions. As I wished them good night, they begged me to come and see them whenever I should be disengaged. I was infinitely amused with the happy and interesting result of my casual adventure with these descendants of Israel.

I now paid a visit to the hostess of the L——. She looked remarkably well, and I passed the evening so exceedingly agreeably that I was not aware of the hour until I heard it strike one. I thought it was then quite time to depart, and she sent her servant with a lantern to light me.

On arriving at home, and knocking at the door, Mrs. H—— put her head out of the window, saying, "Well, you are so drunk, are you, as "you can't let yourself in." I did not much like the compliment, and cried out, "It is me: Señor." "Oh! I beg your pardon, Sir," said she, "my "drunken husband has not come home; he is "out somewhere, and has got the key in his "pocket." "Never mind," said I; and, congra-

tulating myself on the servant coming with me, I returned to the inn where I had a bed, and the charming landlady gave orders for it to be warmed.

The next morning my very kind hostess invited me to breakfast; but, as I was unwilling to encroach farther on her hospitality, I said I was engaged at home.

In the afternoon I was agreeably broken in upon by Mr. R——. He said he was obliged to come here on his way to Abergavenny to perform mass; the priest there having suddenly died, and I accompanied him to his hotel. "Domine," said I, "I have something very grievous to tell you." The priest looked serious. "I have not had an "invitation from D——, and I am very *fond* of "his daughter La———." He smiled to find this was all my confession. "I assure you," said he, "they have spoken of you in terms of much "admiration, and I'll venture to say there is "much anxiety on their part to see you." "You "are very polite to say so," said I; "but what *can* "be the reason?" The worthy priest gave me one, but it was rather unsatisfactory; and I prevailed upon him to exert his influence to effect my wishes.

I jocosely said to the priest, "I think her both "exceedingly pretty and interesting, and I should "imagine from your frequent visits there, your "heart must be in a little danger: is it not?"

" No, no," said he, putting up his hand, as if shocked at such a question; " I am insensible " to all such kind of feelings." " Nonsense " (but very softly uttered), " you must not tell me " you are different to the rest of human nature." " Indeed," said he, looking vastly grave, " I " assure you I do not. Perhaps your priests may " do so who are not so particular, but the Irish " priests practice the most rigid celibacy; and by " their examples Irishmen never commit sin " amongst the married ladies, nor do the women " break their marriage vows. The English priests " cannot boast of this. Their religion allows the " greatest privileges, and it is frequently abused " by breaking all the commandments."

" Indeed," said I, putting on a very pious countenance; " if you speak seriously you can " boast of a great deal; that of withstanding or " suppressing such forcible inclinations of human " nature. The Spanish priests, like yourselves, " are not allowed to marry; but it is well known " to all enlightened men that they are not the " less gallant on this account: but these men, " cloaked by the holiness that their priesthood " attaches to them, and endowed with the power " of dispensing absolution, commit all sorts of " excesses. Oh! the poor nuns, they are much " to be pitied." The priest stared at me (and well he might), and exclaimed, " Indeed!" " Indeed," said I, " it's perfectly true."

" But my good friend, pray pardon me if I

" speak too plain; you have been talking on the " subject of your restrictions and actions to one, " who has seen human nature in nearly all her " shapes, although a few years only have rolled over " his head; and who knows that there is a wide " difference between *preaching* and *professing*; " and as long as you conceal from the world the " frailties which your nature subjects you to, you " answer the entire object of your profession. " Who knows that those very pleasures which " *we* enjoy, *you*, who are made of the same " materials, have a right to enjoy also; so that " you do it with privacy and moderation, that the " *ignorant* may not have reason to suspect you of " *hypocrisy*. These are the conclusions I have " drawn from my experience; and although it " is your duty to point out to the vulgar the " rigid rules that are laid down for *you* to observe, " that they may prove examples to them; it is " not *mine*, as an enlightened man, to believe you. " What things are natural, common sense proves " are proper to enjoy."

" Well, amicus meus," said the astonished reverend, changing the gravity of his face into a smile, " I must confess that I am of the same " materials as the rest of human nature, and " liable to the same *frailties*." " I am not so silly," said I, " to expect you to tell me the extent of " any particular frailty you are subject to, for that " would be swerving from your profession; but " you must not tell me that you are *callous* to the

" same impressions which we are so acutely sen- " sible to." "You are perfectly right," said he, " and I will repeat again, that I am as the rest of " mankind subject to its frailties; but do not " mention," continued he, "to the English the " circumstance of the wickedness of your priests " in Spain, as they are already *prejudiced* enough " against the catholics." " Certainly not," I replied, very gravely; " I have too much regard for " *my* religion, which would keep me from doing " so." Thus our metaphysics ended, and we both took hold of our glasses of brandy and water together, which had become quite cold, and drinking to each other, the priest ordered his horse, and started for Abergavenny.

My worthy friend, said I to myself, as I walked to the landlord's parlour, little suspects who he has been addressing, and who perhaps may have seen as much of the fair as himself; and has found Catholic and Protestant equally liable to err. Errors, only in the priest's mind, not *mine*. What a curious thing is religion! How various in its form; but how similar in its object all the world over! What a wonderful power it possesses to keep the ignorant in awe! The better instructed cavil about its ceremonies more than its principles: the thoroughly enlightened act morally and righteous, caring little for the forms through which they display their devotions.

Here my thoughts were disturbed by the barmaid gently tapping me on the shoulder, and asking me to play my guitar. I did so. In a few minutes after, in staggered an engineer exceedingly drunk, Mr. L——. He made a few rude remarks, which I thought it best not to notice on account of his present situation. "Pray do not notice him," whispered the landlady. "He's a *perfect gentleman*; but being very tipsy "he does not know what he says, and does not "mean you any rudeness." But L—— still continued his remarks, and at last said, "Give "the fellow a shilling." "By G—d, Mr. L——," said C——, "although you are *drunk*, if you "dare to talk so again to that foreign gentleman, "I'll knock you down."

Poor L—— I perceived opened his eyes with astonishment, and, appearing to be sobered a little, muttered out something of an apology. C—— was exceedingly angry on the occasion, and looking indignantly at L—— invited me away. I expressed my regret that he should have given himself such trouble on my account, adding, that I never took any notice of what a maudling person says. "It's scandalous," said he; "truly unpardonable;" and we continued our walk to the forges, whilst he seemed to be brooding over the rudeness of L——'s conduct.

From what the landlady said to me, I was induced to be silent; and had I resented his last

insult, I should have done it in a different manner to knocking him down, although I think he deserved it. "Suppose we go to A——'s," said I, "after we have visited these fiery looking esta- "blishments." "*Pactum est,*" said he; and we were not long before we were there.

Here we found A—— and his brother busily employed at chess. With extended hand he gave us a hearty welcome. The game was immediately laid aside; and he begged his sister, who was the supervisor of all the *good things*, to let us have some punch as soon as possible. Some currant wine, liquors, and hot water, were soon on the table; but as I had not quite forgotten the effects of his *home made*, I excused myself as not being perfectly convalescent.

Our amusement was singing, to which I contributed a little with my guitar; but A—— and his sister favoured me with a great many pretty Welch songs; so did C——, who sung with a great deal of humour and taste. Miss A—— favoured us with a little Welch pastoral song, with a chorus of "tit-il-la-la-ral-la-ral-la," which I was not *backward* in joining, as an indication of my pleasure.

I expressed great admiration of the *softness* of the words; but *women* make the harshest language mellifluous and agreeable. A——'s *amor patriæ* displayed itself, and he said to me, "There "now: is not the Welch language beautiful? It

"is not that *crack-jaw* language which you "thought it?" "I assure you, Mr. A——," said I, "I did not give it that name: at least in speaking "of the difficulty of the pronunciation, it was "a word supplied me to help me out, and I was "not aware of the true meaning at the time." "It's of no consequence," he observed, "and I "know the English pass a great many tricks upon "you; but never mind, you can talk Welch "better than any of them."

I did once, in the hilarity of the moment, make use of this unfortunate expression; but I little thought it would have flown all over the village. I afterwards found that every body was acquainted with the circumstance, and the Welch being very national, and particularly fond of their language, felt exceedingly annoyed at my remark.

At about half past ten, after having paid tribute to Apollo, my host proposed supper; and, by way of novelty to me, said he would give me a Welch rarebit. I suspected what he was alluding to, and not admiring *bread and cheese meals*, said to him, "I don't like *rabbits*." "Oh, no, no," said he, "this is a very peculiar one; you have "never yet seen one, and you will be sure to like "it." Accordingly the toasted cheese and bread was served, when I was obliged to express my surprise, and say I liked it. "I knew you "would," said A——, who gave strong signs

himself that he had no particular objection to it.

"Do you know, Mr. de Vega," said his sister, with a great deal of good humour, "how a "mouse trap was invented?" "Indeed I do not." "Well, then," continued she, "it was the "invention of a Welchman. The Welch are "particularly fond of cheese; and there was one "who made it a practice of taking some to bed "with him every night. Once he fell asleep in "the middle of his repast, leaving a piece in his "mouth, which was wide open. A little mouse, "every thing being silent, was attracted by the "high flavour of the cheese, and crawled up to "the bed, and putting his little head in the "extended mouth, to pull out it, the Welchman, "as if by instinct, immediately closed it, and "caught the little thief between his teeth. Ever "after mouse traps were baited with cheese, as "the greatest allurement."

I laughed very much at this story, particularly at the artless manner in which it was told, and added, "that I thought it must be a pleasant "amusement for the Welch people to rid their "houses of mice, by making traps of their "mouths." "No, no," said A——, "they don't "do so, Señor." Alas! poor Wales, how much she is burlesqued. At twelve o'clock, after spending a most pleasant evening, I took my leave, and returned home.

The whole of the next day nearly I passed in reading and writing. I called at R——'s hotel, but he had not returned from Abergavenny; and I resolved on leaving the town the following day, as the D——s had not sent me an invitation. But in the evening my resolution was delightfully broken by C—— paying me a visit with young D——, who was delegated by the family to invite me on the following evening at six o'clock. I sent back word that I should be exceedingly happy.

At eight o'clock I received the favour of a visit from Mr. M———, the director of the British Iron Company's establishment at Abersuccomb. He made every enquiry about my present circumstances, and seemed much surprised to hear that I was depending on the guitar for support.

He sympathized with me very kindly, adding he felt great pleasure in seeing me possess such good spirits. "'Tis truly distressing," continued he, "that you should suffer in this way, for de-"fending your country from oppression." "Never "mind, my dear Sir," said I, "my *turn* may "come again. Let's have a little music." "I am "happy to find you console yourself so easily," said he; and after a little music he left, inviting me to come on the following day and see the melted iron run from the furnace; to which I agreed.

Being up rather late the next morning, I called

at A———'s for his horse. His sister informed me he had sold it, but nevertheless I could have it for the day. The horse being ready, I made my bow and was in a few minutes on the road to the company's establishment.

I arrived there half an hour after my appointment, and found Mr. M——— looking out for me. He received me very kindly, observing that he had kept the iron from running for some time, and that there was now only one furnace left. I was very much pleased with the process, but particularly with the effect of the confined air as it escaped, causing a great quantity of sparks, which he observed at night looked very beautiful.

After this he invited me into his counting house. "Mr. de Vega," said he, when I had entered, "I am now going to enter on a very de-"licate subject; but you are in a foreign country, "and I am well aware of the cause. Were I "similarly situated, it is most likely I should "stand in need of pecuniary assistance; and if "you will pardon the liberty, and do me the "favour to accept this sovereign, I should feel "very happy." Poor fellow! I perceived as he was making the explanations respecting the melted iron that he was in a state of uneasiness, and his countenance assumed a more than usual expression of kindness towards me.

"My dear Sir," I replied, "I feel infinitely "this generosity; but I can assure you I do not "stand in need of it." "But pray accept it,"

said he, "it may be useful another time." "I "trust for the future to be equally prosperous; "but should it not be so, Mr. P——— of New-"port, has been so kind as to permit me to "write to him for assistance." "As that is the "case, which I am most happy to hear for your "sake, I lament that I have offered you this "money," said he very kindly, "as it might hurt "your feelings."

"I trust," I replied, "I have too much good "sense for that to be the case, and I assure you "this circumstance will greatly increase the esteem "that I already entertain towards you." "I "am very happy," said he, "to hear of your "being well provided for, and hope to have the "pleasure of seeing you at Mr. A——'s to-mor-"row evening." "I have engaged myself there," I replied, and again thanking him for his kindness, remounted my horse and wished him adieu.

I was pleasing my fancy with the manner in which he displayed his generosity, and drawing up my horse before I descended a slope close by the establishment, about half a dozen fellows came running after me, crying out, "Pray put "my name down, Sir? Pray put my name "down, Sir?" "What?" said I to them rather astonished. "Oh, Sir," they repeated, "Put my "name down, Sir? I should like so much to go "to Mexico." "So should I, Sir?" "I am not "going to Mexico," said I, as I now began to suspect what they meant.

"What bearn't you going to take nobody to "Mexico?" exclaimed one man, apparently much disappointed. "No," I replied. "Well, "now," muttered these fellows to each other, "if that a'nt a trick of these ere men."

Poor fellows, said I to myself, as I continued my ride, if you knew as much about American mining companies as I do, you would not run after them with so much eagerness.

I know of no speculation that was so barefaced, and wore so much the appearance of swindling as the one I once had something to do with. I went out with the most flattering promises. Saw several men under my charge die for the want of medical aid, which was promised us; and I was taken violently ill, and obliged to return home for the advice of a doctor, to avoid sharing their untimely fate. I not only received no remuneration for my services, but property, which cost me about one thousand pounds, was sold by the company's agents for one thirtieth part of its value; the loss of the money I did not feel the effects of, my father being *cashier* at the time; but I very sensibly feel that my constitution has been impaired.

After paying as much attention to my toilette as circumstances would admit of, for the D——s' party, C—— called on me at six, and we went off together. On being ushered into the room, the younger daughter was the first person I met,

and she very politely shook hands with me, and then her eldest sister, who had seen a great deal more of society, honoured me with a most gracious bow in lieu of this ceremony. I was now introduced to Mr. and Mrs. D——, who gave me a most hearty welcome. The former then handed me a chair, begging me to take the trouble to be seated.

At first some little diffidence was created, and I fell into conversation with the gentleman next to me. I found he spoke Portuguese very well, had been a great deal in America; and, curious to say, the subject of our conversation was principally on my own family.

Tea and coffee were shortly served, and in one of those agreeable and sociable fashions, where we have the gratification of seeing the whole process of its preparation by the hand of the lady, who may grace the table as superintendant. This duty fell on Miss La——, the coffee on El——, and I managed (though as if *par hazard)*, to place myself beside the former.

I said but little to the fair tea maker at present, it being understood I could not speak much English —merely that the tea was good — she had a great deal of trouble — and something about pretty faces. The tea service being removed, we went to the pianoforte, and I asked Miss La—— to favour me with the same German song which I had heard her sing at

Mr. G——'s *soirée*, the melody of which continually haunted my mind, as well as—— I can not venture any further. She smiled, and then said that I must first play my guitar.

I again pressed her to favour me, as her singing would be the most agreeable; but she still persisted, and taking this as complimentary, I sung a little Spanish ballad. She now favoured me with the German air, which she sung with exquisite taste, and one or two more, whilst I accompanied her with my guitar. C—— favoured us with his vocal powers, which, particularly in comedy, were very good. Indeed we all sang in succession except Mr. D——, who was very frequently entreated, being known to be a very excellent singer; but he thought fit to decline.

For the next three hours our time was passed with music both vocal and instrumental, to which Miss La—— was so polite as to contribute greatly.

Desirous to have a dance, I played (by way of hint) a valtze on my guitar, as if to amuse myself. It was hummed immediately by Miss El——, and in a valtzing step she went up to her mamma and proposed a dance. "Can you dance quadrilles, "Mr. de Vega?" said her mamma. "A little," I replied; "but I'm very fond of dancing." "We "must have a dance," said the daughter, "as "Mr. de Vega says he's very fond of it." "Very "well," was the reply, "after supper."

The supper table was now laid out, and every one drew round it. Again it was my good fortune to be placed beside Miss La—, and at the same moment the two Miss D———s, presented me with a peeled orange. I at first felt embarrassed how to act, looked at them both as if for advice, and then partook of each, which created a good laugh.

We were not long at supper: after which we danced quadrilles, Miss La— presiding at the piano forte. Her sister was my partner, with whose vivacity, as well as amiability of manners, I was much pleased. After this quadrille I suggested that some one might succeed the place of the present player at the piano. A young lady immediately offered, and I was just going to ask Miss La— to let me have the honour of dancing with her; but it struck me, that from her very fashionable tournure, a little negligence would at first render me a more acceptable partner than an over-earnestness. I therefore chose another, and the quadrille was commenced, in which Miss La— led off in a very graceful manner. In my turn, although I did not fear rivalship, as the gentlemen danced very ill, I displayed my very best, thinking it would not pass *entirely* unobserved by the opposite lady.

After this quadrille, I proposed a *contre danse Espagñole*, volunteering to play my guitar. The dance was generally approved of, but I was not

allowed to be the piper. I now ventured to ask Miss La— to dance with me, but I found her engaged. Our couple led off, and when we came to the poussette, I placed my right hand, as a matter of course, to my partner's waist. She resisted this sufficiently to cause me to withdraw it, kept me at *arm's length*, and so we finished the poussette. I had never danced it this way, and was exceedingly awkward. I thought also of the unfavourable compliment that was paid me; and told my fair partner that I feared I put her out, and begged her to excuse my valtzing any more, as I could not do so at *arm's length*. She said as I *could not* valtze so, she would valtze with me after the manner I had been accustomed, and so we continued the remainder of the dance. I now invited Miss La— to dance with me and was more lucky this time. We led off; she valtzed "comme une ange," and I do not recollect the time that I ever experienced so much pleasure in a dance. This terminated our evening's amusement. Receiving a general invitation from Mr. and Mrs. D———, I made my bow and returned to my lodgings.

CHAPTER VII.

An Evening Party—A Lover discovered—Determine to leave Pont-y-pool—A Parting—Raising the Wind—Change my Mind—My Fortune told—My Resolution again shaken—A Visit to the Lakes—Lovers' Quarrels—The Reconciliation—The Riddle.

THE whole of the next day was passed in doors. In the evening I went, in company with the C——s, to A——'s, there I met M——, who expressed himself very happy to see me. Miss A—— was *en grande toilette;* and, as usual, possessed a fine bloom on her cheek.

After tea, a ceremony amongst men *generally* very tedious, a more exhilirating beverage succeeded in the shape of rum punch. This was done justice to by all, and its effects very visibly demonstrated. The C——s were exceedingly entertaining, who, in addition to their vocal powers, possessed a fund of anecdote, and were acquainted with a variety of very amusing tricks by legerdemain.

We had a most excellent supper, and after paying our respects to a very fine turkey,

A——— exclaimed, "You are pretty fellows, "you Catholics, eating meat on a Friday;" and they all seemed to be taken aback. I, for one, was going to say something about fowl is not meat; but the C———s began first with a similar excuse, and there was a great laugh raised against us. A great deal of conviviality and amusement followed after supper, which lasted until half-past one o'clock, when the C———s and I left, and returned home together.

The next morning I paid a visit to Mr. D——, where I passed the time very agreeably in delightful conversation with his eldest daughter. Mrs. D——— invited me in the evening to tea, which I was too happy to accept.

I went punctually at six according to the invitation, and was asked into a side parlour, where I found Mr. D———, and Mr. A——— with a toilette, on which I perceived he had bestowed more than ordinary pains.

Tea was announced, and Miss La—— again presided, I took care to obtain a seat beside her. The things being removed, I begged of her, as a particular favour, to sing my favourite German song; and she did so with her usual excellent taste. Mr. A——— was now asked to favour us with his vocal powers; but he pleaded inability as an excuse, so that this duty fell principally on myself and the Miss D———s.

After supper Miss La— again asked A——— to sing, and her smiles this time proved irresistible. He sung, "A Lover's Complaint;" the principal features of which were the complaints of a gentleman against his lady-love, who had forgotten him, the great cruelty of such conduct, and his nightly prayers for *her* happiness. This was sung with all his pathos, and it did not require much discrimination to discover his *object.*

The song being finished, many applauses followed, and A——— went up to Miss La—, saying, "I have sang on your account, will you "sing on mine?" The young lady, with a great deal of adroitness, sang one called the "Little "Robin." Here the Damon was depicted as being inconstant, and, in fact, the whole fault laid to him. A———, I observed, listened with considerable attention; though evidently wore the appearance of being rebutted. I certainly enjoyed this little "affair" very much. The evening continued exceedingly agreeable, and we remained until a very late hour.

The next day was Sunday, and having been up late the preceding night, I was *absent* from *mass.* In the forenoon I paid a visit to Mr. W. G——— and his lady. I perceived the table covered, with those books, which too strongly reminded me of my neglect, and thinking I might be disturbing them in their pious

duties, I very soon withdrew. I dined with the C——s, and passed a tolerably pleasant evening.

This morning I resolved on leaving for Abergavenny; and, packing up my luggage accordingly, went to the D——s to take my *congé*. I staid there the whole of the morning, for I was exceedingly loth to quit. I begged them to accept two little pieces of music, as a memorial. They did me the honour to do so, and being asked when I thought of returning, I felt that gallantry compelled me to reply in opposition to my real intention, and said, "three weeks."

I attempted to take Miss La—'s *profile*, and desiring to make it *very* exact, I spoilt it, and tearing up the card, said, "that my *memory* "would well supply this deficiency."

The time at length arrived for me to bid them adieu. I shook both their hands, and not without some pain uttered this dreadful word. I then took my leave of Mr. and Mrs. D——, whom I thanked for their very polite attention, and returned to my lodgings to forward my luggage by the coach.

For the first time I began to think of my funds, and found I had only three shillings in my purse. Recollecting I was to dine with Mr. G——, I fixed upon him to replenish it. At the time appointed I went off to dinner; but found it was not quite ready, and whilst waiting

I made known the state of my funds, stating as the reason that I had not exercised my guitar in a lucrative way, and requested him to give me a *Napoleon.* "Oh! certainly," said he, "I had "thought myself you must require it, but I did "not know how to proceed about it; I am "very happy you have introduced the subject." I now begged the favour of a letter of introduction to some one at Abergavenny, which he also gave me. In return, according to my general system of acknowledging favours, I begged his lady to accept the "Spanish Exile," which she did, and politely added, "that she should prize "it very much."

We now proceeded to a very excellent dinner, which was scarcely completed, before the hour of the coach to Abergavenny summoned me to depart. I, therefore, rose for this purpose, and after thanking my host and his lady for their polite attention, and receiving their wishes to see me on my *return;* I bade them, farewell. I called at the C——s to take my leave of them. "You cannot possibly go to day," said they, "it's so dreadfully cold." I did not see the *dire necessity* of going, and knowing the agreeable consequence, which would attend my stopping, I replied, "that if I did not leave, I had engaged "myself at the D——s in the evening." "Very well," said one of them, "I will accompany you;" so that I stopped.

At half past six I went off to the delightful spot, which had such a magnetic influence over all my actions, and very naturally surprised all the family. "I thought you were at Aber-"gavenny by this time," exclaimed Mr. D——, very good naturedly; "but I'm very happy to "find it's not the case." "I have been pre-"vailed upon to stop by the C——s, condi-"tionally, that I might pass the evening at your "house." The evening passed away as usual, though varied a little in the circumstance of my having my fortune told. The two Miss D——s were the tellers. The ceremony of shuffling and cutting the cards was performed. "You are very "fond of a fair lady," they commenced. This thought I to myself you know. "She is fond of "you too." I was *particularly* gratified to hear this. "There is a person very *jealous* of you—in fact two." I laughed very much at the latter part, which the young ladies said I could *see* on the cards if I were doubtful. "I don't question "for a moment *one word* you have told me," said I; "pray continue." "That's all," the eldest replied, very briefly; and so my fortune ended.

At twelve o'clock I returned to my lodgings. My luggage was again sent the next day to the coach office, and booked for Abergavenny; and I went again to take my leave of the D——s. A—— came in, and pressed me to stop the evening at his house, and offered me his horse to

convey me the following day to Abergavenny. I wanted but little persuasion to remain, and agreed to stop, conditionally, that I should pass a part of the evening at the D——s. He then wished me good morning.

"You may think it very uncomplimentary to be "persuaded to remain from a gentleman's invita-"tion," said I to them; "but I assure you the "opportunity of my being able to revisit you was "the cause." "We are very happy," said they very politely, "of the delay, be the reason what it "may." I then took my *congé* until the evening.

After waiting with the utmost anxiety for six o'clock, it arrived *at last*, and I went off to the D——s, as I thought positively for the last time. The next four hours passed the most agreeably that I had ever yet witnessed; but as the horrid time of my departure advanced, so my spirits began to droop, and my suspense became excessive. At eleven I had to go through this very disagreeable ceremony. I shook hands with all, and with one I could not avoid making a more than ordinary pressure. They all expressed their kindest wishes for me: and I again bade them adieu.

It was not long before I mechanically reached A——'s house; and, as I entered, made many apologies for being so late. The reason being well known, I was begged not to *mention* it. I sat down, and with a forced cheerfulness entered

into conversation with Miss A———. But in a very few minutes I gave way to a little reflection on the charming creature I left behind. This was not unobserved by A———, and in his turn joked me about Miss La———; and, in my own language, said, "I give you de sympathee." This was rather too *keen* to be agreeable, and I affected the *utmost* indifference to her; but managed tolerably well by an attempt to rally my spirits to escape any more of his jokes, and the evening passed off rather pleasantly. We all lent the aid of our vocal powers, stimulated by some very excellent punch.

On his sister's retiring, he very kindly offered me the use of his purse, which I declined with many thanks, adding, that I had already received a sufficiency from Mr. W. G———; but he again pressed me not to refuse it if I required it. I was so much pleased with his generosity, that I gave him my real address in London, though not my real name, and then wished him good night.

After breakfast on the following day, D——— invited me to accompany him to skate, adding, that I might leave in the evening. I agreed, and we visited a large pond on the hills, where the ice was very strong, but unfortunately too much snow was on it. However, we both managed to enjoy it sufficiently to keep out the cold. At about half past two we returned home by a

circuitous, though very pretty walk, as I was anxious to avoid being seen by the D——s.

At dinner he gave me another excellent specimen of Welch mutton. I am by no means a *bon vivant*, but never let a good thing pass unobserved. After dinner the horses were ordered out. I expressed a wish to remake my toilette, and my luggage having gone away by the coach I made a call on his wardrobe.

We now mounted our horses, and curious enough mine was a Spanish one, and a great beauty: A——'s was a bad one. It was certainly very polite of him to give me the best; and, having the whip in my hand, I acknowledged this compliment by exercising it over his lazy nag in order to make it keep my own pace. We went to visit the lakes close by, the appearance of which I was very much pleased with. They were situated between two mountains rising almost perpendicularly, and on each side covered with wood; which, as I could very easily conceive, A—— said looked beautiful in summer.

In the warm season they afford great amusement to the gentry around, who make many aquatic excursions, and enjoy the sweet effects of their music, which is rendered more mellow by the water. These lakes were not only ornamental as well as amusing, but served as reservoirs to supply the rivulets which turned the mills at

the forges. They were frozen over, but by no means sufficiently strong to bear.

After riding to the end of the lakes we returned. From the road by which he was conducting me, I found I had to pass D——'s house. Here happened to be Mr. D—— and his lady, so that I was obliged to pull up. "I congratulate "you on your new dress," said he, "I would "recommend you to keep to it; but, as you are "still in the neighbourhood, you must come and see "us in the evening." "You are very kind," said I, "but I fear I don't deserve it." "Oh! yes," said he, "you must come: but, by the bye, how "uncommonly well your metamorphosis becomes "you."

Agreeing to visit him in the evening, we started off, and were very soon at home. After tea A—— and I proceeded to make our toilette; I don't know that I was ever so long in my life. From the constant habit of having the neck free, I found the handkerchief very disagreeable. We soon started off to Mr. D——'s, where I must confess, notwithstanding I was welcomed by all, I at first felt considerable annoyance at revisiting them after twice taking my farewell. As usual, the pianoforte was resorted to, and the charming Miss La—— sung with her usual sweetness, whilst my guitar also was occasionally brought into use.

By some unfortunate accident in the course of

the evening, I do not know whether real or imaginary, I asked Miss La—, whilst at the pianoforte, to favour me with a particular song. She turned it over, and sang one which A—— requested her. I felt my *amour propre* so excessively wounded, that I immediately left the instrument, and entered into conversation with her sister.

It by no means emanated from a fear of rivalship, as on this head I did not feel much alarm; but I construed it into a direct slight. In a few minutes I went lingering beside the piano whilst Miss La— was singing a very pretty Swiss canzonette. I took up some music, and affected to be looking at it, whilst my *whole attention* was in fact on her. "How do you like that?" said she to me, with a most exquisite smile as she finished. I thought it a fair opportunity for retaliation, so replied, "I beg your pardon, but I was not listen-"ing." "Oh!" she exclaimed, in a particular tone of voice; and a look which signified that it was too severe.

Having enjoyed the puerile gratification of slight for slight, I endeavoured to make some little amends, and begged she would, as a particular favour, sing my favourite song again. She read my meaning correctly, and favoured me with the German song, and then asked of me the one she most admired; and, as if our little misunderstanding should be entirely buried in oblivion, she complimented me upon it as I finished.

From the kindness of her manner I saw more glaringly the imprudence of my conduct, which created a little thoughtfulness in me, and I was devising some means to make atonement.

At supper the two young ladies peeled an orange, an honour which they had repeated since the first day of my visit, and presented them to me. I did so, but in my unfortunate reverie, had forgotten my usual return, and omitted to peel one for them. This unpardonable neglect did not pass unobserved, and when it was too late I recollected it.

In addressing the *dear author* of my present melancholy, I endeavoured to be gay, and forced smiles on my countenance; but she clearly perceived they were not natural, and understanding the reason, returned them with an expression of compassion.

I overheard my worthy friends Mr. and Mrs. D— talking to each other on my want of spirits this evening, and consulting as to what could possibly be the cause of so sudden a change. Notwithstanding the annoyance I suffered from being so serious and dispirited, I could not help relapsing again into this state. The conversation had nearly ceased, I again tried to rally, and looking up at Miss La— it made me worse. I tried to reason with myself on the folly of my being so *hors du combat*, but it was of no avail.

I thought this might have emanated from *possi-*

tive love, and feared that my conduct might have diminished me in her estimation. To the former idea I did not like to yield, and, indeed, advanced a kind of bravado philosophy against it—said something about the numbers I had flirted with without danger, and resolved I would be merry and flirt again.

As I recovered from this train of thought, I found all eyes were upon me, and scarcely one person speaking. More successful this time, I assumed a gayer appearance, and spoke to Miss La— on her delightful singing—paid her several compliments—then laughed with her sister who was endowed with a great deal of vivacity; and, in fact, did any thing that I thought would conceal the real state of my feelings. I managed for a short time to avoid the general attention.

A—— favoured us with a song, and during the silence which necessarily followed, I again became absent. But it was a fortunate reverie indeed. During this time, as I happened to be looking up I saw Miss La—'s eyes were upon me. She smiled significantly as I looked at her. I returned her smile, and asked the cause. "I "think," said she, "it is the same as your's." "What is that?" said I. "Is it not the piano-"forte?" she replied. "Yes it is; but it was "very foolish of me, but really I am not well this "evening." "Indeed," said she, "I am not "either." Perceiving she sympathized with me

so kindly, and looking my gratitude in return, I immediately recovered my usual spirits, and "Richard was himself again."

By way of commencement to a little gaiety, I asked Mr. D—— to favour me with a song, adding, I was well aware how much he was able to delight us. He replied he never sang now, but on my account he would venture.

Mr. D—— was a man of very polished manners, and I flattered myself he displayed this complacency from a consciousness that I was not in my best spirits; but, begging his pardon, I never listened at all to him—for too happy at the recent explanation with his beautiful daughter, my whole attention was engrossed by her, and whenever our eyes met, a smile was produced at the recollection of the unfortunate misunderstanding at the pianoforte. The song was comic, which I, *at last*, found out was about the theatre; and, in imitation of the voice of the gods of the gallery, Mr. D——, in a tolerable stentorian tone, exclaimed, "Silence!" which imperatively drew my attention towards the singer, though not without a sudden start in my chair. This created a great laugh against me, and Mr. D—— gave me the explanation of his song.

After this he favoured us with two or three more songs, to which I paid due attention, and was much gratified with their piquancy, as well as the humour with which they were sung.

A—— again favoured us, and then asked Miss La— to do so. She declined, saying she was unwell. To ask me was known to be useless, as I had already excused myself, under a plea of fatigue with riding, so that the vocal department fell to the gentleman whose comic powers very ably made up for the deficiency, and my time was passed exceedingly agreeably in conversing with the charming Miss La—.

In the course of our conversation we spoke on riddles, and after discussing a little about the expertness of deciphering them, I scratched out on a piece of white paper the following letters after this form :—

Y L S S M F
R I S S M L

" These letters you must so place," I continued, " as to form two words." She looked very hard at them, repeated the different letters, and then said, " she could not make it out." " 'Tis very " easy," said I, " pray repeat the letters, you will " soon find it out." She did so, and as she uttered the double SS, I perceived the *hissing sound* seemed to make her conjecture at the meaning; and, after trying some time, she smiled, and said " she could not solve it."

As I was explaining this to her, doubling the paper so as to join the half part of the top letters

to the other of the bottom, forming the very innocent monosyllables, KISS ME; and we were laughing over the result — "What, what, what's "that," said Mr. D——; "you must not have "all the fun to yourselves." "No, no," said I, "papa must not see it." "Oh yes," said he, smilingly, "*papa* may see it I am sure." "Very "well," I said, and unfolding the paper, presented it to him. "There's nothing in it," said he, "I'm sure." "It's a *riddle*," exclaimed Miss La——. He again tried, but returned the paper to me, begging an explanation. I felt myself obliged to give one, and begged him to fold the paper. He did so, and laughed very heartily at me, saying, "Papa must not see it, "eh! This is very pretty, Mr. de Vega. No "wonder *papa* must not see it;" and they all had a good laugh at me.

The evening passed on very delightfully indeed, and it was very late before we left; when, with their permission, I said "I would visit them on the "following evening for the *very last time*. You "may see," I continued, "how hazardous it is for "me to speak positively, as I have already broken "my word twice." We now wished them good night. On our way home, A—— said to me, "I "observed you were not so gay as usual. Miss "La—— was the cause?" "Miss La——," said I (for whatever I might have felt, I didn't wish to acknowledge), "has not made the

" *slightest impression* on me; I was not at all " well; and even had she, this night, by the bye, " is enough to cool my ardour." " I," said he, with more sincerity than myself, " am resolved " *never* to revisit their house, for I am like a " moth which flies around the light until it burns " its wings, and in order to avoid that crisis, I " *must* keep away." Continuing your simile, said I to myself, if I have not burnt mine, they are very much scorched.

CHAPTER VIII.

A Reverie — The Promenade — The Village Church — The Forget Me Not — I fancy that I am suspected — An Irish Bull — A Skating Party — The Whisky Flask — Its Effect — The Hour of Parting — A Sick Friend — The Straw Hat — Arrive at Abergavenny.

We soon arrived at his house, where I was very glad to draw close to a large fire. The night was exceedingly cold. A——— invited me to take some refreshment, but I refused, being very glad to be alone, so wished him good night. Sleep, alas! was almost a stranger to me the whole of the night; my thoughts were — 'tis needless to say where. What did I not say I would declare to her the next day? What did I not think? She was no longer mortal — she had now become deified. The recollection of my hasty conduct flashed before me, magnified a hundred fold worse, and I resolved to let nothing escape by which I might make a just retribution. For once, though once only, in his romantic journey, the Spanish Minstrel was caught, and bowed at the shrine of Venus, humbly acknow-

ledging the supreme influence of Cupid. When I got up the next morning, I could scarcely believe that I had given way to such a love-sick reverie. I never was in better spirits, and laughed at the idea of my being so silly.

After a very excellent breakfast, A——— proposed skating; but said, that at present he was engaged, and if I would proceed, he would follow me. "Very well," said I; although I was engaged at the D——s; but not wishing him to know it, I began by way of preparation to bore some holes in my boots, or rather *his* boots, and then proceeded to the D——s.

I proposed to the ladies to come and see us skate. There was some little opposition to this by *papa;* and, on his retiring, I said a *petite promenade* on so fine a day could not possibly do any harm. Mrs. D——— approved of this; but Miss La——— said she would rather not, as it would deprive me of the pleasure of skating. She knew very well which I most preferred; but I again asked her, and she refused with the same reason.

I little thought of my comical dress being any impediment, and construed it into unkindness, or a wish to make me the more anxious; so again displayed the hastiness of my temper in these affairs, by getting up and saying I must now take my leave for Abergavenny. She then took compassion upon me, and with her sister left the

room to make the necessary preparations against the cold.

I had been so long accustomed to my present dress that I did not think at all about the presumption of my request, and made not the slightest allowances for their feelings, which, particularly in ladies, is so very fine with regard to exterior appearance; and mine certainly was *very shabby*, to make use of no *harsher* term.

Their younger brother and a clerical gentleman accompanied us. Arriving at the top of the hill, the view of the mountains was beautiful to an extreme. I was however in too happy a mood not to have been pleased with any thing. The ladies invited me to go into the parish church, and we went accordingly; but as we were coming out, our reverend attendant began to pull away at a famous rate in the *belfry*, effecting a most joyous ringing. It was very laughable to see all the cottagers running from their houses, looking at us with inquisitive eagerness; and observing the clerical gentleman with us, I have no doubt it was spread around, "That that ere comical "looking stranger was married on Muster D——'s "daughter."

By some accident I found myself with the younger sister, and the elder one a little in advance with the clergyman and her brother. "Do you know what little flower this is?" said Miss El———, presenting me a satin pin-cushion,

bearing a flower represented in blue beads; I knew, but replied, "that I did not." "It is a "'Forget-me-not,'" said she. I looked at it awhile—observed, "it was very pretty;" and then returned it to her, as if I did not understand her meaning. "Oh! pray accept it from me, will "you?" "Oh! je comprend," said I; "I feel "highly favoured by this pretty present, and will "keep it as long as I live, although I do not "stand in need of this emblematical device; but "what a pitty you had not put your name on "the opposite side." "No, no, I leave that for "you to remember," she very adroitly replied. "Perfectly right," said I, and making some lame excuse, added, "you perceive I would like to *see* "your name as well as think of it; but if I may "judge from the number of times I shall look "at it when away, I shall always have the very "amiable giver in my mind."

By this time, we arrived at the bottom of the hill. We had overtaken the party in advance, and, as if par-hazard, I managed to change my position to the side of her, from whom I should indeed have felt an inexpressible pleasure to have received the "Forget-me-not."

After a little prelude of various remarks, I said to her, half jocosely and half in earnest, "Where, alas! will my poor heart be, when I go "to Abergavenny? Pray, give it me back, be"fore I leave." "No, no," said she, "you must

" not *tell me* that, for I will *not* believe you: I'm " sure that *I* can't have taken it from you." " *Experience* has convinced me, begging your " pardon, to the contrary," said I.

On our return, as we approached the house, little ——— D——— came running out to tell us Mr. R——— had returned from Abergavenny. "Well, Domine," said the worthy priest, extending his hand to me, "quomodo vales?" "Bene, Domine, gratias tibi;" and for a while we kept up a Latin conversation. "But, Domine," said he, "you can talk English very well, "Mr. D———, says." "I fear he is disposed "to compliment," I replied. "Oh! no," said Mr. D———, "he talks as *well* as I can; he "understands every thing;" I thought that "papa" began to grow a little suspicious, so I said, "I was at a loss to know why he should "just *now* mention, that I could talk English, "when they have heard me talk it all along; "but as to speaking as well as Mr. D———, "really it was too *great* a compliment." I spoke this in Latin, and Mr. R——— explained, when Mr. D——— said, "I mean to signify that he "can understand every thing, and explain him- "self with great facility." "Come, Domine," said the priest, "you must talk English," and added, "that he had not the slightest idea, that "I could talk so well." "Certissime," said I,

"the reason was because we always conversed "in Latin."

They both agreed in the feasibleness of this remark, little thinking how I regulated my conversations in English, and whilst I was ordinarily mute to my own sex, I would at all times venture to speak it to a pretty girl. "Mr. R———," said Mr. D———, "I shall never forget the expression of Monsieur de Vega's countenance "last night, when I exclaimed, silence! in a "comic song. He appeared quite astonished, "and was at a loss to account for so sudden, "and so loud an exclamation. Of course," continued he, "he cannot comprehend the meaning "of *songs*, whilst they are being sung; that "can't be expected, and my exclamation of si-"lence! astonished him very much: indeed I "shall never forget it."

So much for this lucky *start* of mine, which was purely accidental, and I could little have thought at the time it would have been the means of freeing me from a suspicion that would have otherwise, I feel strongly impressed, existed in "papa's" mind. I was not only happy to find myself free from any suspicion, but infinitely amused at the great pains which my friend took to clear me.

"I have some particular business with you," said R——— to me, and we immediately went

into another room. "I have a letter, Domine," said he, pulling it out of his pocket, "which I "*wrote* for you, enclosing two sovereigns from "a Mr. T. P——; but for the better security "of the money, *I have brought it myself.*" He then read the letter, and presented me with the money. It was a very long one, and at every part, which he thought I did not clearly understand, he would explain.

I thought this a regular *Irish Bull*, to write a letter, be the bearer of it, and then read it to me. But this was not the first *little mistake* he had made since I had the pleasure of his acquaintance. "My dear, Sir," said I (for I had always a reluctance to receive any more money than was actually necessary), "I am sorry you have ac- "cepted it, as Mr. W. G——, has given me "what I wanted." "Never mind," said he, with more foresight than myself; "you may not want "it just now, but you will another time; there- "fore, take it." I did not give him the trouble to press me again.

It was well I did not, for considering the state of my shoes, gloves, and other apparel, I required a refitting; and accordingly, in the evening, made various purchases. Thanking my worthy friend for his kindness, and giving him a letter of thanks to Mr. T. P——, he expressed the kindest wishes for my future welfare, and returned to Newport.

I *now* went to keep my skating appointment with A———, and arrived at the pond just as he was coming away. "Ah!" said he, "you "have been at D———'s, I'm sure." I urged R———'s arrival as my excuse, and prevailed on him to turn back, and skate a little longer. Seeing me move along the ice with some facility, he looked very much astonished, and asked me, "*where* I had learnt to skate?" "I told him "in *London*, during the last winter." We continued this amusement for some time, to my great enjoyment; and during the exercise I made frequent sips from a whisky flask, which he had had the foresight to provide. We skated about three quarters of an hour, and then left the ice.

I perceived that my spirits were wonderfully elevated, and as we were going down a hill I stumbled once or twice, so as not to leave me in doubt as to the cause; and felt happy to accept A———'s arm, who seemed much amused at my staggering situation. I was excessively annoyed with myself for having drank so much of the whisky, the strength of which I did not immediately perceive, as the weather was very cold; and it was not without tumbling down three times, that I managed to get to the bottom of the hill, though luckily, without hurting myself. But, by the time we arrived home, I had *perfectly* recovered, and no longer required my friend's arm.

At dinner, I had another fine specimen of Welch mutton; A———, poor fellow! was taken rather ill, and went to bed immediately after. At seven I went off to the D———s. The evening was passed delightfully in music and dancing. I also taught, as well as I could, Miss La— a Spanish song, which she liked very much, and promised me to have it by *heart* by the time of my return. I was not behind-hand, of course, in saying a few soft nothings, by way of a just acknowledgment to her.

The awkward time of parting at last arrived. "Do you really," said they, "intend to depart for "certain to-morrow." "I dare not trust myself," said I, with a positive reply, "as I have already "failed three times in my determination: but it "is at present my firm intention to go, *if* I can "muster sufficient resolution." Mr. and Mrs. D— were informed of my going. I shook hands fervently with them both, and they expressed a hope to see me again very shortly. I returned them many thanks for their kind attentions to me, and again bade them adieu; but with Miss La— I felt as if I was giving my very heart away.

My feelings on this occasion were worked to a great pitch of excitement, and although I felt a pain at parting, still the consciousness of knowing that my regard for the charming Miss La— was not slighted afforded me great happiness. I certainly never passed such happy days in my

life, as I had done at the worthy Mr. D——'s house. I cannot do justice to the liberality of his offers to me. He frequently offered me any money that I might require; but having enough, of course I did not accept it.

I soon arrived at A——'s, where I found supper was laid on the table against my arrival. "I have "already *supped*," I said to the servant; and, begging her to give me a candle, went off to bed. For some time I could not sleep; but how different was the state of my feelings to those of the previous night! In that case there was a confliction of thought, without the power of reflection to administer relief; in the present, although I felt considerable uneasiness, I knew the immediate cause, and acquired a pleasing serenity to soften down the poignancy of my suffering; and I at last fell asleep.

The next morning, as I got up, my thoughts reverted to the fair creature I was about to leave; but I knew I *must* go. The recollection of the terms on which I had left her, afforded me a great consolation, and my feelings were far from being distressed. I now visited the room of my friend, and was sorry to find him ill with a violent headache.

"I have an excellent prescription," said I, "that will be sure to relieve you. This was what "I always carried with me in my travels, and was "given to me by my medical friend, Mr. King, of

" Hanover Street, to guard against head-aches, " which I am rather subject to." A—— was no patronizer of the physician or apothecary, and declared that he should soon be well. As the breakfast things were going away, in he came, saying he was considerably better; and, by way of proof, gave orders for a very substantial breakfast.

I begged the favour of some writing paper, and wrote out two Italian canzonettes for the Miss D——s, and one for my fair hostess. A—— had a straw hat which particularly attracted my notice. My present had become positively disreputable. " You were so kind," said I, " as to " offer me your military cap, but I do not require " it. The straw hat you also offered me, which " I refused; but, if I should not be depriving you " of it, it would prove acceptable, as my own is " nearly worn out." " I beg," said he, " you " will accept it;" and he promised to send it by his servant to Abergavenny.

At twelve o'clock I rose to depart, but was not allowed to do so until I had partaken of a little luncheon, consisting of toasted cheese, so much in favour amongst the Welch; and shaking hands with my worthy host and hostess, with a thousand thanks for their attentions, I mounted the horse and bade them farewell.

Passing the D——s' house, I looked out for the charming creature for the last time, never

perhaps to see her again: but alas! she was not there. I silently uttered, "adieu!" as I lost sight of the house, and then continued my journey. I was well mounted, but the wind was very disagreeable, being very high and cold: and my straw hat caught it, and without the ribband, which I usually tied to my waistcoat, I should have lost it.

As I neared my journey's end, I was much pleased with the picturesque style of the mountainous country covered with snow. The weather had been excessively cold for several days; and the people, as I entered the town, seemed to be much at a loss to account from what place I had come; and I heard a variety of boisterous remarks made by numbers in the streets on the peculiarity of my dress, and more particularly on the comical shape of my hat. I now went to the Greyhound inn; and, putting up my horse, requested my luggage might be brought me, whilst I proceeded to warm myself by a large fire in the parlour. I took out two songs of the Spanish Exile, and wrapped them up for A—— and his sister as a little memorial. It was not long before his servant arrived with my hat, and I gave him the music, with a slight recompense for his trouble.

CHAPTER IX.

Abergavenny — Welch Fires — Bad Shoes — An Introduction — Hospitable Invitation — The New Hat — The Town Hall — My Friend D——'s Case — Mrs J. — An Adventure — Mr. D——'s Liberality — Visit to the Holy Mountain — A Skating Party.

I PROCEEDED down the town to look out for the brother of my late landlord at Pont-y-pool; I soon found him out, and making known that I was acquainted with his brother, he behaved very politely to me, and invited me to dine with him. This I declined, and coming to the immediate object of my visit, told him I wanted some apartments, and asked him if he were aware of any. After his dinner he accompanied me in search of some; and in a short time he obtained for me a very comfortable room at a house painter's, named Pritchard, at the very economical rent of four shillings per week. The room not being quite ready, I returned to H——'s where he prepared my dinner.

In about two hours I went to my apartments with H——, whom I invited to drink, and asked

my new landlord to join us; and after they had both taken their *quantam sufficit*, they wished me a good night.

The next day, before I got up, the servant made me a fine large fire, a very agreeable consolation during the extreme cold weather which prevailed. I have omitted to express the surprise I first felt on coming to Wales, when I observed the poor people with such immense fires. I at first could not divest myself of the idea of the great expense attending them, as in London, where it would cost from seven to ten shillings; but here not more than as many pence: indeed, coals are so cheap, that they usually keep their fires all night to save the trouble of lighting them in the morning.

My forenoon was greatly occupied designing on a piece of paper, the shape I intended A——'s straw hat to be converted into; and determined on its being the same as before, with the slight difference of the brim turning round at the edge. H——'s wife being a straw bonnet maker, I took it there, and gave her the necessary instruction to make the alteration required; which she promised to do with as much haste as possible.

It had unfortunately turned out, that all my speculations in ready made shoe leather were bad; and I went to several shops to refit, but the people were excessively rude; or they said the weather was too cold for their kind of work;

or that the pattern I wished them, was of so foreign-like appearance, that they would not undertake the order, from a fear, that if they did not fit me, they would never be able to sell them.

Going to a hosier's to make some purchases, where there was a tolerable good looking woman, some one brought in some music to her, and a conversation on the subject followed between us. My guitar was introduced, and finally, I had an invitation to come and play to her: Sunday forenoon was fixed for this purpose. So much for a guitar, I found it ten to one better than a snuff-box for making acquaintances. Wishing the lady good morning, I crossed over to H——'s, and acquainted him of my ill-luck amongst the cobblers; when he conducted me to one, who was a Londoner, and was glad to take the order, making me a promise to have them finished with all possible speed.

On Monday I went with a letter of introduction to Mr. D——. I could not help laughing, as I saw "solicitor" written on the door, the whole of my acquaintances, nearly, having been of the legal profession. I sent the letter in to him, and was informed that he would be happy to see me between five and six o'clock. At this time I returned, and was ushered into the parlour, where Mr. and Mrs. D—— received me with great politeness. They expressed themselves much pleased with my performance on the guitar, but

would not allow me to play much; and before I left Mr. and Mrs. D—— very kindly invited me to live at their house during my stay. I thanked them, but declined, observing I had already engaged apartments; when they begged I would take all my meals with them. Mr. D—— also very kindly offered, if agreeable to myself, to have a small party at his house on my account. Returning them many thanks, I wished them good night, promising to breakfast with them on the following day.

I was welcomed the next day, and after breakfast Mrs. D—— excused herself, having a little marketing duty to perform; but begged I would amuse myself as well as I could with the books in the library. I now went to superintend the finishing of my hat: the crown was as before, though a little shorter, and the brim turned round. This was Mrs. H——'s taste; I approved of the style, but suggested a little alteration in the rim. My hat was now accordingly finished to my satisfaction, as well as the maker's, who said it would do well for a new fashion for the next summer.

The following day I again breakfasted with Mr. D——; after which he asked me if I would like to accompany him to the Town Hall, as there were some cases to be tried. We went; but, finding we were too soon, proceeded to the reading room at the Angel Inn, where he introduced

me to Mr. P———, the head magistrate of the town. After we had remained some time reading the papers, we proceeded to the Town Hall, where Mr. P——— was busily occupied with a case. When he had disposed of it, he turned round and invited me to sit by his side in a chair of one of the magistrates, who was absent. I thought this was very gracious, and truly indicative of high breeding. I bowed my thanks, and did myself the honour.

"You see," said he, smilingly, "I am an al-"calde (magistrate)." "I perceive so, Sir," I replied; "and a very painful office, I doubt not." "Yes, Sir," he answered; "but I have a great "many rascals to deal with." There certainly were some villanous-looking fellows under examination.

Mr. D———'s case came next. He opened the proceedings by saying, that his client, who was standing by the table with his head bound up, had been most woefully *wrapped* about it by his companion, on their return home from an alehouse, both a little fresh. After Mr. D——— had finished, the opposite counsel commenced; entered into all the particulars most advantageous for his client; and endeavoured to make the defendant commit himself by a little contradictory statement. "You said," he commenced, "that "this man poked you and aggravated you, and "in a teazing kind of manner; but he didn't *hurt*

"when he poked you?" "No," replied the man, "he didn't *hurt* me certainly; but it was that kind "of 'niggering' way that wexed me." "Ah! "just so," continued the counsel; "he didn't "poke you to hurt you, but he just touched you "in this kind of way, as I might touch Mr. D——" ('suiting the action to the word', with a quill in his hand). Mr. D——, with a great deal of good humour, said to his client, who had a large stick in his hand, "Pray show *that* gentleman how you "were *poked*." Here was an immense laugh all round the room. However, Mr. D—— gained his client some damages; and then, after they had been arguing against each other with so much apparent animosity, shook hands, and interchanged the common civilities of the day.

After waiting to see one or two more interesting cases decided, I left the hall, and returned home for some music. I then paid a visit to Mrs. J——, the hosier's wife, where I had made some purchases. Mrs. J—— received me with one of her very best curtsies, and her large hand. She thanked me for the music, and asked me where I had left the guitar. "At home," I replied; "but "if you would like me to play it, I will." She thanked me, and her servant was dispatched for it. Mrs. J—— conducted me up to her drawing-room. There was no fire, so I suggested going down stairs, and accordingly we went to the back parlour, where I played and sang to

her, and she expressed herself very much pleased, adding that I *must* promise some day to come and see her again.

I asked her to sing to me, but she refused, from bashfulness I suppose. At her request I sang again to her, when she became positively *lavish* in her encomiums upon me and Spaniards generally; and rolled her eyes about, out Heroding the French style, which I presume she was desirous of imitating, having been, according to her own account, to France—"a fortnight at Calais."

I never require more than half a hint, and construing this as such, I thought I would have some fun; so proposed the fire being lit in the drawing room, that I might hear her play the pianoforte. "Tres bien, Monsieur," she replied; and giving orders about the fire, we proceeded up stairs. Mrs. J——— now seated herself at the instrument, and, after playing the Downfall of Paris, sang to me. I praised her singing up to the skies, although it was in fact most villanous.

She had too much of the French manner to be behind hand in compliments, and begged, as a particular favour, a song from me. After a little pressing I did so, and suddenly stopping short, said I could not sing, having drank some wine; but if I had but a little water—"Oh, you'd better "have some wine," said she. "No, merci," I replied; and her little sister, who was in the room, was sent down for some. As I was leaning over

her to look at the music, she was directing my attention to, I lost my equilibrium, and our cheeks nearly met together. She scrambled away, knocking down the chair, and exclaimed, "Oh, you wicked man!" and then ran down stairs as hard as she could pelt. I could not help laughing at her comical appearance, and her very nearly having a somerset I very soon followed her, and she greeted me again with—"Oh, you "wicked man!" "Hush, hush!" said I, "it was"— "Ah!" she continued, stopping me; "it's just "like you foreigners, you are so giddy and "thoughtless." "It was your beauty," said I, *a la Richard*, "that made me—but I'll not do "it again. Don't be angry, and I'll sing you an- "other song;" and immediately struck up "Ce "que je desire, et ce que j'aime."

I really know not whether she understood it; but she seemed to forget very suddenly my being a *wicked man*, and rolled her eyes about as before, and repeated her compliments. I thought it now a very fair time to depart.

In the evening, I went to the party which Mr. D——— was so kind as to have on my account. There were several people there, and for a country place was tolerably pleasant. I returned home rather early.

The next morning Mrs. D——— presented me with a letter, adding that there was a little money within, which her friends last night had given

her on my account, and begged my acceptance; I thanked her, and accordingly pocketed it, which on my return home I found contained five sovereigns and Mr. D———'s compliments.

This certainly was very kind, and I have no doubt that he contributed the major part of it. I had a letter of introduction to Mr. W——— of C———, and I went off to his house to pay him a visit. He was not at home, so I left the letter and my address.

The following day I ascended the Skyrrod, or Holy Mountain, distant about two miles and a half. It is exceedingly steep; and by the time I had arrived at the top, notwithstanding the keenness of the weather, I was in a violent perspiration. I walked all over the summit, and was much gratified with the fine views it commanded on all sides. It has a very curious and irregular appearance, one part of it being abruptly separated from the other; in fact, tradition imputes this gap to the crucifixion of our Saviour, when the mountain was rent in twain.

As to the probability of this story, I will not venture an opinion; but, from the curious position of the divided mountain, it has the appearance of having been affected by some sudden convulsion. There are still the remains of the foundation of a Roman chapel, which I am rather induced to think is why it is called Holy Mountain.

The catholics in the neighbourhood attach so much superstition to this mountain, that they go to it for some earth, which they call *holy*, to sprinkle over the coffins of the dead during the burial service.

By the time I had descended the mountain, I found myself covered with mud; the road being so difficult of access, as well as excessively dirty.

At home I saw Mr H. W—'s card on the table, and I resolved on visiting him in the evening, and at half past six I went with my guitar under my arm. Directly my name was announced, Mr. and Mrs. W——— came out to receive me, and conducted me into their parlour; when I was invited to partake of the dessert, which was on table. I found them exceedingly agreeable; and partly in playing, and partly listening to Mrs. W———'s performance on the pianoforte, the evening passed away very pleasantly. As it was some little distance from the town and late, a bed was offered me, which I accepted.

Mr. W——— took some pains in showing me his collection of paintings, which were very fine. At twelve o'clock I retired, and was conducted to a very elegantly furnished room, and with a fine large blazing fire, particularly agreeable during this very cold weather. The next morning we proceeded to the stables to see his hunters, and finally around his garden.

At half past ten we all walked towards the

town for church. On our way, they spoke about having a party at their house on my account, and Mrs. W—— said she hoped to have the pleasure of seeing me again shortly at C——. I thanked them both, and arriving at the church I made my bow and returned to my lodgings.

My landlord and his wife, being absent at a meeting, had locked the door, so that I was obliged to stroll about for the next hour and a half. I took the direction of the coal mines, where a person entered into conversation with me. We had not proceeded far before he met another acquaintance of his, and from their style of conversation, in which "cutting-out" was very frequently introduced, I had no doubt but my friends were itinerant tailors. They spoke about the best places to visit for work, and related their various tramping excursions. After listening to a very edifying dissertation on their calling for some time, I returned to my lodgings.

The following day I borrowed a pair of skates, and called on a Mr. O'B—— to accompany me; and on our way we stopped at a Mr. L——'s who was fast in the arms of Morpheus. He hailed his sleepy friend with some tolerable loud knocks, which soon awoke him, and he joined us. He shook hands with me as he entered, when I recognised [illegible] one of the party at the D——s.

I saw a variety of military accoutrements lying about the room, which led me to inquire the rea-

son, and Mr. L——— told me he was a lieutenant on half-pay. His breakfast was already laid out for him, which he neglected, in order not to keep us waiting; and on our passing an hotel, he went in to take a substitute that was more convenient. Mr. O'B——— was invited to join, as well as myself. I declined, but the former had too much politeness, and accompanied his friend to drink some double XX. The propriety of taking a small bottle of brandy with us was suggested and a soda-water bottle was immediately filled, and we proceeded to a pond at Landfoist. The ice was very good, on which we all commenced skating at a famous rate, and the brandy bottle was frequently called into use. O'B——— was the keeper of the *precious article*, as he did not skate: he seemed to hug it close to his heart, and frequently presented it to me; but the recollection of the cogent effects of the whisky at Pont-y-pool suggested a little caution, so that I partook of it with moderation.

The bottle being empty, which soon happened, was rolled along the ice to afford some amusement to the skaters, who were now rather numerous, consisting of many of the shop-keepers in the town.

CHAPTER X.

The Half-pay Officer — A Tempting Landlady — A Greek Sailor — Mr. P——— — A Parcel from London — A French Sailor — The Town Crier and Watchman — His Insolence — The Magistrate threatens to punish Him — The Present — Arrive at Brecon — The Letters of Introduction — An Adventure in Church — A New Companion.

After an hour or two's pleasant skating we returned to the town, when Mr. L——— invited me to a very good dinner. After our repast, military subjects came on the tapis, and he asked me the amount of Spanish pay, &c., and then related to me a great deal of his career; from which I learnt that notwithstanding his being only two and twenty, he had seen a great deal of active service. I asked him if he did not find the town horribly dull? "It is rather," he replied; "though I "amuse myself tolerably with the country sports; "but there is a great advantage in this place, the "living is so very cheap;" and then followed a long account of his various disbursements.

It is curious how very frankly military men communicate with each other; whilst with civilians

they are exceedingly distant, particularly on pecuniary matters. After our military subject had passed off, that of women succeeded; and I asked him, as I knew he could cut the townsmen out, if he did not pay his adoration to some of the neighbours' daughters, as they were rather abundant, and tolerably good looking. "Why, "d— it, no," said he, wrongly construing my meaning: "I don't; for they all expect you'll "marry them. But what do you think of my "landlady?" "I have not yet seen her," I replied; "is she pretty? and where is her hus- "band?" "Oh! yes, devilish; and he is at "Bristol." "How old is she?" "Thirty." "And am I to anticipate any flirtation with her?" "No, no," he replied, "not yet; but I will ———." "How long have you known her?" "*Only* three months." I could not resist it; so broke out into a roar of laughter, and made some remark on his "*only three months.*"

"But if she's positively pretty, I certainly "would recommend you not slighting her alto- "gether; she will impute your *slow advances* to "timidity." "Oh, she's very pretty," said he, "I'll show her to you;" and we rose to go down stairs: when we passed the door of his charmer, he called to her to take the candle. She came out, smiling her very best; when he *nudged* me to look at her. I could not help smiling, as I gazed, for "*the mark was out of her tooth.*"

"Well, what do you think of her?" said he to me, as we went out. "Why, I do think she's "pretty," I replied; "and I would advise you by "all means to do as you were saying." "Ah! "d——e, I will," said he; and I then said good bye, leaving him to plan his *attack* on the charming landlady, who I certainly think must have been nearer fifty than forty. I felt exceedingly amused with his love story, particularly after I had seen the object of it.

At home I found myself rather unwell; so, following the directions of a prescription I had with me, I retired to bed.

The next day I met a very distressed looking Greek, who came up to me to beg charity. He told me he was a sailor, had been wrecked on the Pembrokeshire coast, lost every thing he had, as well as his passport, and was now making his way as fast as he could to London, to see his consul, in order to obtain some assistance. Observing he was a foreigner, I took every thing he told me for truth; and, accompanying him to his house, gave him a trifle, telling him I would endeavour to obtain from the magistrate some more substantial assistance.

He told me he could not speak one word of English, and I knew it would be very difficult to travel so far under this disadvantage. Inquiring of his landlady (whose house I afterwards learned was a general rendezvous of bad characters),

she replied that he spoke but very little. I now proceeded off to Mr. P———, the magistrate. On my way I met his son; and, telling him my object, we returned to see the Greek. He spoke to the people of the house respecting him, who seemed to give very satisfactory answers; and we occasionly addressed the man himself, whom we both observed looked on the ground: this I imputed to diffidence.

Leaving young P———, I proceeded to his father's, and was received with the greatest politeness. I explained to him the particular purpose of my visit, when, with his usual philanthropy, he promised to do every thing in his power to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate man; and very shortly afterwards sent for him, and gave him some money, with a letter to the magistrate in the next town.

Mr. P——— was the vicar of the parish. He possessed a most benevolent and humane disposition, and was universally respected. As a magistrate, I had observed his great desire to render punishment as mild as possible, particularly when he saw the least sign of contrition in the offender. From what little acquaintance I had the honour of having with this gentleman, I can safely say he was as affable and gentlemanly in his manners as he was virtuous in his principles; for which latter characteristic he was so particularly renowned. This is a slight remark I think only

due to him; indeed, were I not to do so, I should be treating with neglect the ornament and admiration of Abergavenny.

I do not recollect that I ever heard his name uttered (and that was very frequently) without sentiments of esteem. What a blessing it would be if all magistrates and clergymen were like him! The poor would be relieved when they deserved it; the unruly chastised with lenience, and kindly invited to reform; and the distressed, if they could not be assisted with money, might rely upon receiving the kindest sympathy. What a mighty contrast to the magistrates of Bath!

I passed the afternoon skating; but found myself very unwell at night, so again put myself under a little medical discipline, retiring early to bed. I was much better the next day, and proceeded to the Angel Inn, to see if there was a parcel for me from town. I forgot to mention that the shoemaker, to whom I gave the order for two pair of shoes (by the bye, they cost me a great deal of money, considering the limits of my funds), did not make them to my liking, except the thick pair; so that I wrote up to my landlady in town to send me my French dress shoes; at the same time forwarded all those old clothes which I did not now require.

Arriving at the inn, I found as usual the good lady had been punctual; and a parcel for Mister

Juan de Vega, and a very kind and respectful letter within. I need not say, such as it was, it gave me a great deal of pleasure; this being the sole communication I kept up with town: my young friend, who favoured me with the Spanish Exile ballad, having shortly after I commenced my Tour gone to the Continent; and it was now some time since I had heard from the good old lady, or written to her; so that she might well say she thought that *I was lost*.

As I was coming out of a shop in the town, where I had been to buy something, a poor French sailor came up to me to ask relief; and whilst I was listening to the accounts he was giving of himself, a man passing by stopped suddenly short and stared at us both very impudently in the face. "What do you want?" said I. "Ah!" said he, insolently shaking his head, "you go on—that's what I want." I looked at him well, and then recognised one of the police; so observed, "Do you not know me? I was "with Mr. P——— at the Town Hall." "Ah! "I know you, and your companion here. Come, "get along with you. Do you see these?" continued he, pulling out of his pocket two large keys, and shaking them in my face. "I'll put "you, if you don't move on, in the lock-up house, "where I've put a great many more of your com-"panions." "I'll report you to-morrow," said I,

" for this conduct. I know your face;" and then turned to the people standing by, and asked them to be witnesses.

These people, who were of the lower orders, laughed at my remark, and seemed to be enjoying the affair very much. I crossed over the way to H——'s, and told him how I had been insulted, and begged the name of the man. After the description I gave of his person, he told me his name was W——, and followed the double occupation of crier and watchman. "He was filling " the former one," said I, "just now; and he had " the insolence to tell me he would put me in the " lock-up house, where he had put several of my " companions; consequently insinuating, that I " am a thief, or some such-like." "No, no, he " didn't mean any thing of the kind," said H——; " he meant your companions Mr. L——, and " O'B——, whom he had seen you with, and " had put *them* into the watch-house."

I could not help laughing at this information, but nevertheless resolved on having Master W—— reprimanded, which would also afford the victims of his officiousness some little pleasure. Being too ill to go to the magistrate's, I returned home and went to bed. The next morning I found myself perfectly recovered, and the first thing I did was to bend my way towards Mr. P——'s. I thought I would call at L——'s. I did so; he was still asleep in bed.

I went then to O'B——'s, and related the whole of the affair to him. "My dear fellow," said he, on my finishing, "you couldn't have told me "better news than that W—— had insulted you. "Go you immediately to the magistrate's, and "tell him of it. That W—— is a great "scoundrel; he put me and a set of us into the "watch-house. Go you instantly to the vicar's. "D—n it, you couldn't have told me better "news." I could not help smiling at the droll way the Irishman expressed his joy, and then went off to the magistrate's.

On my way I met young Mr. P——, who had also been a sufferer by W——'s violence as far as a night's lodging in the watch-house; and, like his friend O'B——, was much pleased to hear of an opportunity to punish, though he did not express himself quite so *a l'Irlandise*. We proceeded to his father's house, where he showed me into a side parlour, whilst he went first to explain the matter to his father. Mr. P—— very shortly entered; and, shaking hands with me, expressed himself exceedingly sorry to hear of my having been insulted by W——, and begged me to relate the circumstances to him. I gave him every particular, and concluded by observing, that as a stranger I did not wish to appear litigious; and, notwithstanding this treatment, I, as far as regards my *own* satisfaction, would forego a complaint. But I *really* thought that public justice

demanded this W—— to be reprimanded; as, if this insolence of conduct be overlooked, it will be repeated in a tenfold degree.

There was some puffing in the conclusion; but I was very desirous of having the fellow punished, as I knew it would afford a great deal of pleasure to those whom he had housed in a watch-house. The worthy magistrate, having listened with considerable attention, turned to his son, and said, "Really this conduct of W——'s is intolerable, "and I must positively speak to the commissioners "on the subject." "Yes, Sir," he replied, "he's "a great scoundrel; and to insult Mr. De Vega in "this way, when standing in the streets, he de-"serves to be discharged." The worthy magistrate then turned towards me, and lamented that I should have been so treated in Abergavenny. "You may rely upon it, he shall meet with what "he deserves." I thanked him for his attention, and here this subject ended.

Mr. P—— directed my attention to his library. He showed me several books which the French officers, who were prisoners, in the town during the war, had given to him as tokens of their esteem; and he offered me the use of any books I might wish for. Some one being desirous to see him, he wished me good day. After taking a little refreshment, his son and I proceeded to O'B——'s, where the matter was talked over, and many a

laugh raised at the anticipation of Master W—— getting a good reprimanding. This evening I passed at the D——s with a very pleasant fellow named G——; a cognomen well suited to his disposition, though what he said was certainly very lively and interesting. He showed a variety of tricks by legerdemain; and the subject of gaming being introduced, he showed us also a tee-to-tum set of dice, on which any number might be thrown with the greatest certainty. "Ever since I learned "this trick," said he, "and saw how easily one "might be cheated at play, I have never gambled." I could not help feeling the justice of his remark, and thought if the same information was open to all young men, there would be less distress in families created by this horrid vice. I have had a most particular horror of this amusement from my earliest infancy. It is not for me, however, to moralize on the iniquity of gaming, and so leave this subject to those who are better able to do it justice.

The next day I resolved on leaving for Brecon, and went to make enquiries when the coach left for that place. It being market day, a great many Welch girls from the neighbourhood were in attendance catering for the week. Some of these girls were exceedingly pretty, *c'est à dire*, their faces were so, which a very white cap, and their peculiar small black hats tended greatly to

display; but the rest of their dress was too much after the Buy-a-broom style to possess any feminine interest.

In the afternoon I wrote my name on several of the "Spanish Exiles," to be presented to my friends in Abergavenny, and passed the evening at D——'s, where, indeed, I passed the most of them, during my stay, and shall ever consider myself their debtors for the most unbounded hospitality. I presented Mr. D—— with a song, adding that I was going away on the following day. They expressed their regret for my early departure, and hoped to see my return very shortly. Mr. D—— begged my acceptance of two Spanish and English dictionaries; and said, if I wished it, he would give me two or three letters of introduction to some of his friends in Brecon. I accepted his kind offers, begging him at the same time to write his name in the books. At eleven I left, after receiving an invitation to breakfast.

Having packed up my luggage, and paid my landlady, &c., I went to D——'s to breakfast, who presented me with three letters and the books. In the latter was written, "To Señor Don "Juan de Vega, presented by his friend T. D——, "Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, England, 7th Fe-"bruary, 1829." I returned him many thanks for the very great attention I had received. "Never

"mind," said he, smilingly, "when I come to "Spain, I will call upon you when you are re-"established in your lost fortunes." Looking very serious I said something about the impossibility of this circumstance, and my being too happy to see him there; and then shook hands with them both, and bade them a farewell.

Mr. D——'s present now forms a part of my library, which I am not a little proud of. I do not frequently use them, as the edition is smaller than one that I have; but the books never fail to revive my recollection of the kind hospitality I received at the donor's house.

Sending my luggage to the coach office, and taking leave of the rest of my acquaintances, I bade adieu to Abergany (as the Welch call it), on the 8th of February, at half past twelve; a very fine day, but sufficiently cold to have made an additional cloak acceptable.

I rode on the box and found the coachman agreeably loquacious, explaining every thing he thought worthy of remark to me. These fellows are excessively instructive to a stranger, and generally well disposed to transfer their information; at least, they consider civility a part of that duty for which they are liberally feed and drenched.

I was much pleased with the appearance of the lofty mountains in the vicinity of Brecon, where we arrived in about three hours and a half. The

porter of the hotel we stopped at, conducted me to the houses of the persons to whom I had letters of introduction.

To the first, I presented the letter as well as a parcel: he received it, smiled, and said he was very much obliged to me; and that's all. The second was a banker: he was not at home; and I left the letter, but was requested to send my address. I then went in search of apartments, which I soon obtained for a shilling a night.

In the evening I went to deliver the third letter, and asking if Mr. B—— was at home, the servant replied, "What do you want with him?" "I "have a letter to present," said I. "Then give "it me;" and seizing the letter, took good care to shut me outside. It was not long, however, before the door flew open, and Mr. B—— was there to receive me. He bowed, and I bowed; but Mr. B—— was disposed to be silent, so I observed to him I was a Spaniard, and that Mr. D—— had favoured me with a letter of introduction to him. "Yes, I *have* received it, and "*que voulez-vous, Monsieur?*"

I thought this was rather a droll reception, and would very charitably have imputed it to Welch fashion, had I not already met with such unlimited hospitality and politeness in the various parts of this principality I had visited; so I attributed this difference of manner in my new friend, to his trifling knowledge of the French language,

and replied, " Monsieur, je suis *un peu* musical " sur la guitarre, mais je ne la tiens pas avec moi à " ce moment-ci." " Oh, very well," said he, " pray " walk in. What can I offer you — some wine?" " Nothing, I thank you." Here followed another pause. Perceiving his awkwardness, I said to him, " I recollect it is your busy day — market " day, on which the country lawyers are always " very much occupied."

As I have already remarked, my acquaintances in Wales were all lawyers. He observed that he was busy, and begged me to leave my address. This I did and wished him good evening. I was certainly amused with this gentleman's curious reception; indeed, I hardly know why I presented the letters at all, for I intended to leave the town as soon as possible for North Wales.

I was occupied writing until very late, and the next day, being Sunday, I went to church. The pew-opener conducted me up stairs, but not admiring the class of persons collected in this elevated part, I descended and was shown into a pew. Gazing about at the Brecon beauties, who should I discover eyeing me very closely, but a squinting young lady with whom I was acquainted when studying at Woolwich.

I was excessively annoyed, and found her *cross looks* too constant to be agreeable; so, in order to efface all suspicion or identity, I made the most abominable grimace, and saw her whisper to a

friend, as if communicating the discovery of her mistake. After church, I returned home to an early dinner, and then walked about the town.

Meeting with a man who spoke a little Spanish and French tolerably well, he showed me the depôt where the French prisoners were kept. We walked along the banks of the Usk, and he directed my attention to various places which were famous for fishing. A young gentleman, whose appearance was very Spanish, came up to me and bowed; then nodding to the person I was with, asked me in Spanish if I were a Neapolitan. I replied that I was a Spaniard; and, not very well pleased with my situation, was going to make my bow, when he asked me what part of Spain I came from, adding, that he had travelled there a little. I was glad to find he had only travelled, and that his pronunciation was rather imperfect; so we continued our conversation for some time, whilst my companion, who by the way, had been all through the Peninsular war under Lord Wellington and spoke Spanish, was waiting at a respectable distance, apparently out of sorts at the interruption, lost his patience and walked away.

The young gentleman and I then continued our walk together, he interrogated me much on the cause of my coming to England—how I was getting on, &c. "Your women," said he, "are "the most delightful creatures in the world. I "have visited your country since the revolution;

" I was desirous to have been there at the com-
" mencement, but my family would not consent."
" It's well they did not," said I; " for, in me,
" you see one of its melancholy consequences,
" though I am by no means so bad as some of
" my unfortunate countrymen. You may there-
" fore, Sir, think yourself lucky you never went;
" and bless yourself at having parents with such
" foresight and affection." Here he smiled significantly, as a reply, and shook his head. He asked me if I were fond of fishing, " because, if
" so, and you purpose stopping here for some
" time, I can procure you some very excellent
" sport. This place is much frequented in the
" summer expressly for this amusement." " That
" has been the object, perhaps," said I, " why
" you, Sir, are visiting it?" " No, indeed," said he, laughingly, " I fish for pearls when I do fish,
" though I have sometimes accompanied my
" friends and taken a rod in my hand; but con-
" fess that I never could endure being without a
" book in the other, and this is considered a want
" of taste. Do you ride? though, by the bye,
" you must, as I recollect your Andalusian horses
" well. I have a friend here, who lends me his
" horse occasionally, and we'll take a ride some
" day."

" Are you engaged this evening? If not, I
" should be most happy to see you at my house
" at seven to tea." " Sir, you are very polite; I

" am not engaged, and shall feel highly honoured." " It's *tout-à-fait en garçon.* If you will put up " with that, I'll write to my friend to meet you. " He is very musical as well as myself, and plays " the guitar very well, though after you we can- " not of course presume to any merit on this par- " ticularly national instrument."

After conducting me over an old romantic castle in ruins, and then to the old church, he gave me his address, saying, *hasta lluego;* and I returned home.

CHAPTER XI.

I Visit a New Acquaintance — Give him a new Account of the Spanish Revolution—The Catholic Question — An Impetuous Welchman — A Doubtful Point — A Pleasant Evening — A Discovery — Mr. A. D———, and Welch Sympathy — A Morning Ride — A Party of Gypsies — The Fortunes told.

ENTERING my landlady's room I observed two or three Welch girls of her acquaintance, who were rather pretty; but of so masculine a build, and exercising such loud harsh voices, that I soon retired to my own room, where I passed my time until seven o'clock, looking over some Welch books, which I obtained from the landlady. At seven o'clock I proceeded to the young gentleman's house, where he received me very cordially, and introduced me to a Mr. M———, who shook hands with me. Mr. M——— asked me how long I purposed staying here, adding that his friend Mr. S. D—— had informed him of my fondness for riding, and then presented me the loan of a horse at any time. "Sir, you are very "polite," I replied; "but I fear that I am not "going to remain, *having* an engagement in

"Montgomeryshire;" but did not fail to say that I should avail myself of his offer.

I partook of some excellent coffee, and at their request related *the particulars* of the revolution, and *all the various circumstances* that occurred to me during that time of trouble; supplying what I was at a loss for, by invention and my own opinion. As regards myself, I don't know how many difficulties and hair-breadth escapes of life I had met with. They expressed the kindest sympathy: and woe unto the royalist party if these gentlemen's wishes for them are to be realized. "Ah, Señor," said young D———, "your country is not the only one that has "suffered from internal commotion: we at home "are by no means in the most enviable state. "Religious fanaticism and priestcraft were the "causes of your sufferings; but here we are "fearful that these things will exist; and true "piety, because it is in the catholic religion, we "call fanaticism; and wholesome scriptural con-"solation, priestcraft. This is the case with Ire-"land, where the English impose severe restric-"tions on their religion, and the people naturally "enough murmur at it as an act of oppression. "Conscious of the injustice we are doing them, "the government is obliged to fill the country "with military, who enforce the execution of their "very unjust laws; but I sincerely hope the march "of intellect will do away with such horrid preju-

"dices, and that the Irish will be emancipated. "I am a Protestant myself; but a great lover of "liberty, and very naturally suppose others love "it also."

"If you wish your throat cut, this is the surest "way of getting it done," exclaimed Mr. M—— with great warmth; "Away with you and your "liberty too. You are mistaken, my dear boy— "perfectly in the dark. These catholics hate "us; they call us heretics; they think us so; it "is a tenet in their religion, to speed us to the "'*Dioul*.' They think they are rendering a "service to their Creator, and will thereby lessen "their innumerable sins—and the *Dioul* to them. "Señor, I beg your pardon, but you must know "well what scoundrels catholics are! You have "had enough to do with the inquisition, I'm "sure; and we have tolerable good evidence of the "horrid instruments used to inflict cruelties on its "unfortunate victims. No, no, you mustn't tell "me: besides, who can forget the times of "bloody Queen Mary? Now Mr. D———, "what can you to say to that? That's a "home question;" and here he chuckled at this attempt at a *jeu de mot*.

"Upon my word," replied the other, "I "always look upon enthusiasm with admiration; "but when it leads one impetuously towards an "object, so as to exclude the cooler judgment; "why, then it is much to be lamented, and the

"unconscious agent to be pitied. Men become "more enlightened ——But really we are entering "too deeply on a subject which must so affect "our friend; and I'm rather surprised you should "express yourself so warmly; but I trust he did "not entirely understand you."

"God bless you!" said M———, "I wouldn't "have said a rude thing for the world, but you "must acknowledge——Oh! I beg pardon; but "hope he does not take it in bad part." During the latter part of this argument I had affected inattention by turning over some pages of a Cornelius Nepos, which was lying on the table, till I arrived at this quotation from Horace;

> "Donec felix eris, multos numerabis amicos,
> Tempora si fuerint nubila, solus eris."

"Are you fond of Latin, Señor?" said young D———. "I am not particularly fond, Sir," I replied; "but I always feel an agreeable remi-"niscence whenever I meet with a Latin book, "particularly this one, as I read it at school; and "the first truism I ever learned of human nature "is this quotation of Horace. I am very young, "but have seen great adversity, and have always "found this a never failing maxim." "I sin-"cerely hope," said Mr. D———, "that you "find the British treat you with that warm-heart-"edness and respect that your circumstances so "imperatively demand." "Oh, yes." "Stop,

"stop, stop," said he, throwing himself between me and his friend M———, who had already got his purse out: "don't do that now," he continued, in a low tone. "To present a Spaniard "with money requires delicacy: wait a little." "My dear fellow," said the other, "how can I "hear of so young a lad, a mere boy, who may "for what you or I know, have been a nobleman, "tell me he is distressed without assisting him? "Give it him now, poor fellow, he stands in need "of it." "I wish you'd do me the favour to "leave that to me," said the other; "I know the "national character better than you, and I will "arrange it more agreeably to all parties." "Well, "well, do so then," said Mr. M———; "but "you see now, this is what I have often told you; "you were not aware of the miseries of others, "or else you would not fret about your own: "you have every thing you want, save a little "rank; and yet you are to be fretting away all "day, and looking the picture of despair, brood-"ing over miseries at night with your pen and "ink; whilst this poor fellow, who's about your "own age, bears his calamities with a smiling "face, and yours is a mere flea-bite to 'em. "Pluck up, my boy."

"God d—n me!" said D———, rather angrily, for the tone of voice in which the Welchman gave this rallying advice was by no means the most agreeable; "Suppose we banish Horace

" and his crude maxims with a little music as soft " as Virgil's '*tenui avena.*' I don't know any " thing better calculated than the guitar," handing me his own. " Vous me faites des complimens, " Señor D——." " No, du tout," said he; and I sung to them a little Spanish ballad, which I felt sure he must have frequently heard in Spain. He sang with me, and it occurred to my fancy that he had acquired the more faithful style of the two.

Finding he could sing, I soon relinquished the guitar, and begged him to favour me. He played a very beautiful *bolero*, and then sang me " *Il* " *Trocadero,*" which I had frequently heard, but never so truly Spanish. " Vamos, Señor M——; " il faut avoir la complaisance." " No, non, " Monsieur," said he; and attempting his best French, said he could not sing. However he was finally prevailed upon, and he sang very delightfully, " Ayr Hyd-y-nos."

They both related a variety of Welch anecdotes, which were very entertaining; and D—— and I, in our turn, dilated largely on the peculiarities of the Spanish nation. " Oh! Señor," said he, " I'll give you some of your favourite dish for " supper—*Sopa de gato.*" " You are very kind, " Sir," said I (recollecting that garlick was in it, and I was not quite so national as to like it); " but since my long residence in England I am " now unable to eat dishes of such mixtures." " Well, then, an omelet." " A la bonne heure,"

I replied; and he immediately gave orders for one. "How long do you purpose stopping?" said he. "I have an engagement, therefore must "leave to-morrow."

They both pressed me much to stop, assuring me they would secure me several pupils, as well as a concert in a short time. Finding that I was determined to go, they persuaded me to stop one day longer; and M—— offered me his horse to visit the neighbouring country. Supper was soon laid on the table, it consisted of an omelet and toasted cheese. D—— and I paid our respects to the former dish, and the worthy Welchman to the latter. "I have no 'vale de paños' to "offer you," said D——; "but here is some "stronger wine from Xeres (Sherry)." "N'im-"porte, Monsieur," said I, "cela fera;" and we drank to each other. Supper was succeeded by whisky toddy, and begging me to try a little, added, "It was excellent, although un poco "fuerte."

I prefer this spirit to any other, and gladly put the wine aside; but I partook of it with caution. I perceived, however that my preference flattered the national taste of my young host. "Allons," said he, holding up his glass; "hon-"neur aux braves!" We drank, and M—— added, "A speedy return, Sir, to your former honours and prosperity." I thanked him; and the guitar was again brought out. D—— favoured

us with "Ye banks and braes," in very excellent Scotch, and Mr. M——— favoured us with another Welch ditty. It was now my turn; I sang another Spanish canzonetta, and when I had finished, D——— proposed, "The sacred memory of the unfortunate Riego:" I returned thanks. The time passed in singing, quaffing, and talking, until I found that the whisky began to affect my eyelids, and I rose to depart. "God bless you!" said they both to me as they shook hands; and, appointing half past twelve to take a ride the next day, I wished them a good night.

As I was making my toilette in the morning, a sovereign, which I was not aware of being the master of, rolled out of my waistcoat pocket on to the floor. I thought it was very unusual for me to carry my money so carelessly, for I never had a superfluity; and I examined my purse, but found the contents were as I left it. I was rather puzzled at the presence of this strange picture of his Majesty, and conversed a little with myself about it. At last I recollected that young D———, the night before, whilst I was singing, pulled from his pocket a half sovereign, looking significantly at his friend M———, who gave him a whole one in exchange. At the time I did not take particular notice, presuming it was some private arrangement; but I recollected very clearly, that when he wished me good night, he patted me on the chest in the Spanish style, and I have no

doubt seized that opportunity of slipping it into my waistcoat pocket. It certainly was not only very generous, but a very gentlemanly way of presenting me with pecuniary assistance.

After breakfast, as my landlady came into the room to remove the crockery, I asked her if she were acquainted with a Mr. A—— D——, and Mr. M——; adding, that I had passed the evening at their house, and they had given me a sovereign. " God bless the dear youth! Yes, I know " him well, and so he gived you a sovereign, eh! " God bless him!"—giving her head a very significant toss. " Why, why?" said I: " Is he " poor?" " No, he ain't poor like," said the woman, " but he ain't rich; and he be to have a " great deal of money, but there be some one a " wanting to come into his property; so they keeps " him out of it some how. But he has a little for " sartain, and lives here for cheapness; but he " pays all his debts very honourable: he's very " much respected here. He's uncommon clever at " his studies, and can get with his pen what you " or I would be with your fiddle there a month " about. But, bless the boy! he's so uncommon " dejected like. They say he's o'noble blood, " and it's that what makes him in that way. " They wipers of his friends are going to law to " prove he ain't. Poor soul, it goes very hard " upon him, and Mr. M—— fears sometimes his " head is a little affected, he takes it so much to

" heart. He wanders up and down that ere " stream for hours, and sometimes doesn't take " nothing to eat all day."

" But do you think that he is now in want of " money?" said I; " and how much has he a " year?" (for I began to regret making such a call upon his purse). " Why, as to that," said the woman, " I know he has £.— a year for sure; " but it ain't nothing to what he ought to have. " Master M—— likes him like his son; but he " has such spirit like, and won't ask him for any. " Indeed I know he would rather starve first; and " what's such a pity is, his mind is so harassed " he can't keep to writing at all, for he's so clever " he doesn't need Master M——'s money."

My landlady was now called down stairs, leaving me to reflect upon the history of my generous young friend. Poor fellow! I was indeed sorry to hear that his noble spirit was depressed by the cupidity of others, and I began to think how it would be possible for me to return the money.

Personal sufferers always feel more keenly for others; but it was impossible for me last night to have observed any thing like an unhappy mind in this young gentleman: on the contrary, he appeared to be in excellent spirits. I had observed at intervals, when his countenance was composed, a predisposition to reflection, and the few observations his friend made, relative to his dejection in distress, did not escape my notice; but I never

could have thought that he was subject to the excessive melancholy which my sympathizing old landlady had so eloquently described. However, it was another proof to me of the fallacy of judging from outward appearances.

The hour of my appointment with Mr. M—— was drawing near, before which I thought it most advisable to make inquiries about a conveyance to North Wales. I was extremely anxious to see a little more into the character of the Welch, and therefore desirous of getting into the heart of the country. I inquired about a conveyance to the next town, and was told that the coach left every morning at nine. I then returned home to make some extra preparations for the ride.

I went to D——, who received me very cordially, and we proceeded to his friend M——, who lived close by. "Mr. D——," said I, stopping him on the road, "allow me to return you "my sincere thanks for the money which you were "so kind as to give me. I am convinced that your "object was to assist me. Allow me however to "assure you I do not stand in need of it, having "already a sufficiency for my purposes. I must "therefore beg leave to return it, but with many "thanks for your very kind intention."

"No, no, my dear Señor," said he, "*I* never "gave it you — it's Mr. M———: you must "speak to him; but I'm sure he will esteem it a "favour if you will accept it. It is truly a trifle;

" but if you will receive it with the same feeling " with which it is presented, you will afford my " friend a great deal of pleasure. It will do to " pay the coachmen on the road to town. Now " pray do me, or at least him the favour to accept " it." " I assure you, Sir," I replied, " I don't re- " quire it." " Now, Señor," he continued, " don't " make a fuss about trifles: pray take it; at least " you must not speak to me." I found myself still obliged to be the owner of *his* money; and lamenting the circumstance I could not help feeling delighted at his unostentatious effort to fix the credit on his friend.

We were soon at M———'s, and found three horses ready saddled for us; I thanked him for the money he had so kindly presented me, when, with his usual rough and manly style, he hurried over the subject, saying that I made as much fuss about it as if it were a " hundred pounds."

The roads being very good, and the morning air rather cold, we proceeded at a smart trot. The country in the distance looked very beautiful; the summits of these immense mountains were beyond the reach of human sight; and the sun spread a partial cheerfulness over the scene. We saw a few Welch peasants at work in a field of Mr. M——'s. The women, with their small black hats and universally white caps, looked exceedingly picturesque; but, great as my admiration was, I don't think my attention was more oc-

cupied by them, than theirs was by me; and I could frequently perceive a titter on their ruddy faces while Mr. M—— carried on his Welch conversation with them.

Continuing our ride, we turned off to the left, and I made many inquiries of Mr. D——— about the local productions and manufactures of the place. "Wales," said he smiling, "is, from "one end of it to the other, very nearly the same. "Cheese appears to be the principal commodity; "but it is also famous for its coal and flannel: "we have also a great deal of excellent mutton, "but I often find it a very difficult thing to get "a *cotelette.*"

As we had taken rather a circuitous road, I found myself at the opposite side of Mr. M——'s field, who had conducted us there intentionally to drive away some gipsies, who were now bivouacking in a very snug nook on his premises.

"These are the people," said young D—— to me, "who tell the *bonne aventure* by the hand. They "follow this calling as a cloak for pilfering; but it "is curious how many people have their fortunes "told by them, and are (particularly women) so "superstitious as to give credence to their rig- "marole stories." "Napoleon's fate book is the "best," said I; "but if Mr. M——— be not "displeased, and you will join me, I should wish "the old Goody to tell my destiny." "So, you "are rather a predestinarian," said he. "Well, I

"am nothing loth to join you;" and he immediately went up to M——, who was very busily employed in scolding these people, and threatening them with immediate imprisonment.

The disturbed horde were making something like preparation for a decampment, muttering their dissatisfaction, when D—— said to them, "Here, old lady, you need not disturb yourselves "to-day; Mr. M—— will give you till to-"morrow: but mind and be away by that time. "You tell fortunes, don't you? Can you tell this "gentleman his?" "Yes, your honour, yes," exclaimed the old witch, looking very joyfully; "I'll tell the foreign young gintleman. I see "'travel and travail' already in his countenance. "Will the gintleman hear his future destiny on "the horse?" D—— interpreted, and I said, "Yes."

"Give me your darling hand, my dear," said the wrinkled old hag. I did so. "We generally, "Sir, if you please, cross it with a piece of "silver; but you are a gintleman, I dare say, "and one ain't got no reason to be afeard. Well, "now; you are going a journey. There's much "of the travel and travail, as I said afore, that "you are to go through. There's a lady who "loves you, and you loves her—yes, you loves "her; but you will see another dark one soon.

" Papa loves the dear boy much—yes—no, no— " got no papa." Here she had looked very inquisitively in my face, and I presume read the expression. " Much travel, much travail—bro- " thers and sisters quarrel—yes, you have—have " many—great quarrels—great disturbances—and " then, after much travel, much travail, all is " peace. Much money—much friends—soon— " yes, very soon; but you *must* first see much " travel and much travail."

" Qu'est-ce qu'elle dit?" said I to D———, " Parbleu! la sorcière! je ne comprends pas; " mais il faut qu'elle me raconte la mienne. Now, " Mrs. Thing-abob, tell me mine." She laid hold of his hand, and turning up the wristbands, commenced with. " Is *her* name W. or P.?" Poor D———! he looked at me, then at the woman, apparently much confused at so unexpected a question. " What do you mean?" said he, affecting surprise. " *You* know well what I mean, " a lady of course; is it W. or P.?" " Pshaw," said he, " neither; but say any letter—P., if you " will." " Ah!" said the old Goody, tapping his hand, and trying to show P. in the lines; added, " P. is her—P. is her—P. stands for poor: Don't " think of her—don't think of her—a journey— " a journey for you—misery—misery—enemies " —enemies in numbers. Then comes money— " money—much money, and riding in a coach;

"you will shame your enemies; their conscience "will be their torments—*money soon*—*money* "*soon.*" "Is this all, old lady?" said D———; and then to me, "Vous ne comprenez pas, sans "doute; mais cette vieille salope parle toujours "de l'argent. Elle dit, '*Faites vite avec le petit* "'*cadeau.*'" "Ah! ah!" said I, at his interpretation; and each of us giving her a shilling we rode off. "Voila le voyage," said I. "Si, "vous avez raison," said he; "et la *vieille diablesse* "*tient l'argent.*"

We had a good laugh at our fortunes, and continued on at a smart pace, until we came up to M———, who had been looking at his fences; and he began to complain rather bitterly of the old auguress and her tribe, whom he denominated thieves, and again threatened imprisonment.

As we proceeded along, we overtook a very pretty young lady walking with her servant behind her. After D——— had made his bow, and enquiries after her and her mamma, she asked him, if he did not intend taking tea at her house this evening. "Of course, A———," said he, addressing her by her Christian name; "you could not think I would be absent: but I "have a Spanish gentleman with me, will you "allow me to bring him?" "Whatever you like "will be agreeable to us; Mamma, you know, "likes Spaniards very much."

I clearly perceived that this fair little creature was the image he paid his adorations to, and also that they were not ungratefully received. After enjoying about three hours ride, we returned by the north entrance to the town; and accepting Mr. M———'s invitation, we went to his house to dinner.

CHAPTER XII.

The Dinner—The Spanish Revolution—An Introduction—The Lovers—News from Newport—The Picture—An Assaut d'Armes—An Evening Party—A Melancholy Lover—My Fate piously commiserated—I determine to leave Brecon.

Mr. M——— gave us a very excellent dinner *à l'Anglaise*, consisting of four courses, with some excellent wines; which a keen appetite, created by my ride, caused me to enjoy the more. He pressed me much to partake of his favourite curru (ale), after which, in his estimation, wines sank into insignificance; but I managed to make him understand, "I never malt it," and made up, as a substitute, by some very excellent claret. "Allons," said I, "Monsieur M——," after the cloth was removed, "Here is to Cambrear and its "prette lade!" "Bravo, Señor!" said he; and we all drank it with enthusiasm: when he observed, "I dare say we shall hear of a Signora de Vega, "before you leave us. Master D—— here is a "little o' my opinion;" and he looked very significantly at him. "Ah! ah! Monsieur D——,"

said I; "vous ne pouvez pas échapper la "beauteé Cambrian. Rappelez-vous une Made-"moiselle P——, dont la vieille sorcière vous a "parlé ce moment-ci?" "Bah!" said he; "nc "faites point d'attention à cette bétise. M——, "how ridiculous you make yourself!" "Oui, "oui," said M—— good-naturedly.

"How long, Señor, have you been in Wales; "and England you know, altogether?" I told him, not a great many months, although I had left Spain four years ago. "Come, Signor, if it "is not too distressing a subject, will you give "us some of the particulars of the origin of the "Revolution, and some of your other adventures, "that have happened to you." I gave them a long account of it as far as I was able; spoke of the principles of the government; the patriotic feelings of the people; the fanaticism of the king; and, in fact, imputed the cause of our misery to the supreme power the priests had over him, as well as the people in general. "What a me-"lancholy thing," said D——, "that so much "power should be vested in the hands of priests! "Indeed, in men of any sect! for I am well "aware that they are not to be trusted with un-"limited power." "Ah! ah! Master D——," said M——, "so you come to my style of think-"ing at last. I told you these catholic priests "were great rascals; but you wouldn't have it "so." D—— was going to say something in

explanation, but the other suddenly left the room, laughing over the victory he thought he had obtained.

"I lament very much, Señor," said D—— to me, with all the seriousness of a man of forty, "that we have unfortunately such frequent proofs "of the ill effects of some of the principles of "your religion. Your beautiful country (by na- "ture the finest in the world), is what it is from "the effects of pirestcraft. Priests are mortal "like other men; and though not so liable to err "from the nature of their education, still they "are subject to do wrong, and consequently "ought not to be supposed to be perfectly free "from the temptations of this world. 'Tis a pity "they are invested with such power, 'almost more "than earthly' I was going to say; at least the "principles of my religion hold it as such. They "ought to be looked to like other people. 'Homo, "homo est errare.'" "Monsieur D——," said I, "you are perfectly right. We have long been sen- "sible of the cause of our miseries in Spain, and "we at last made an attempt to remedy them; "but, alas! you see a good object is not always "successful, and many a nobleman and his family "are reduced to extreme penury by our ill-suc- "cess."

Here followed a long discussion on the vicissitudes of man, in which M—— soon joined us with great warmth. D—— advanced a great

deal of excellent argument by way of consolation, and I clearly perceived that it was on my account. It is surprising how one man will console another, and yet never profit by his own reasoning. Poor D——, he little thought I was aware how much *he* stood in need of his advice to me. Of course I gave him no hint of this kind, but merely thanked him for the interest he was taking on my behalf.

At seven we started off to his friends. On our arrival, young D—— led the way into the drawing room, and conducted me to the lady of of the house, saying, "Mrs. P—— allow me to "introduce to you my Spanish friend, Señor de "Vega." I was then introduced to the daughter. For awhile we stood, until Mrs. P— said, "Don-"nez vous la peine, Señor de Vega, de vous asseoir." I bowed, and affecting to take the first chair that came to hand, fell into one beside the young lady, whilst D—— went *faire la cour à sa mamman.*

Miss P—— spoke Italian and French remarkably well, so that I soon found myself in a very close conversation with her. She was exceedingly pretty, and possessed such a most delightful style of manner, that I looked towards my young friend with a grateful feeling for having secured me so great a pleasure.

After tea young D——, addressing the young lady by her Christian name, asked her to favour us with some little performance on the pianoforte.

She required no repeated solicitation, and he looked out for her music book, turning over the leaves during her singing. She favoured us with "Di tanti palpiti" in excellent style. Her voice was excessively sweet, and she appeared to have the greatest command over it.

"It's all very well Miss A——," said M——, "and you sing very prettily; but your Italian "music's nothing like our soft Welch music." "Very well, Mr. M——" said the young lady smilingly; "suppose we have your Ayr hyd-y-"nos;" "No," said he, "no *I* can't sing;" and although he was pressed to do so, he thought fit to decline. "Signor, will you favour us?" said the young lady: "I have heard so much of your "performance by D——." "Monsieur D——," said I, "has greater claims to praise than I have;" and then sang her an Italian canzonetta. I now resigned the guitar to D——.

He sang, "Nel cor piu non mi sento;" and from the young lady's close attention, I could clearly see that what M—— had said, bore the appearance of reality.

For some time the evening passed with music and singing, until I gave D—— a hint of my partiality for dancing. A quadrille of eight was very soon made up, and I had the honour of dancing with the beautiful Miss A——. After this a change of partners followed, and mine was a Miss Ll——, who was pretty, agreeable, and

danced well; but (begging her pardon), my whole thoughts and looks were upon the beautiful creature I had just left. We had also some valtzing. The honour of Miss A——, as a partner, again fell to my lot; she valtzed *comme une ange.* I never passed an evening more agreeably. D—— asked me to stop one more day, and proposed a variety of amusements; but I was determined to leave. He then left me, and I saw him whisper to Miss A——, occasionally looking at me.

About one o'clock I took my departure, and as I was shaking hands with the charming Miss A——, I perceived a kind of telegraphic communication of the eye between her and D——. "You surely "will not leave us so soon Signor de Vega?" said she. "I lament very much that I am obliged." "*One* day will not make much difference. No, no, "Señor," said D——, "you must not; I am sure "you have too much gallantry to refuse a lady, so "you must stay." Finding I had no alternative, I bowed my assent, and returned home half in love with the beautiful Miss A——.

The next morning I had a long *confab* with the landlady respecting Miss A——, or more properly P—— as the gipsy said. "She's an "uncommon nice young lady," said my garrulous landlady, "and has an uncommon good income; "but Muster D—— has so much spirit, that he's "determined not to marry her, because he has no "money himself; but the dear young lady loves

"him very much, and so does he Miss P—— to "distraction; but he thinks it looks as if he "wanted to marry her for her money-like. He's "awaiting to come to his property first. God "bless the young gintleman! he frets a good "deal about it." Here followed a long panegyric on him and his general line of conduct, which was interrupted by Mr. W—— of Newport coming in.

I was very glad to see him, and after exchanging some hearty shakes of the hand, made enquiries of all the friends I had left behind, particularly the fair; not omitting the *charming* E—— J——. "Quite well," said he; "but you "are a pretty fellow to run away from us in this "way." "Business, my dear Sir, business must "be attended to;" and I then made him relate me all the news. There was one fair one in particular of whom I made enquiries, thinking he might have seen her "en route," and I was happy to hear she was quite well. The repetition of her name brought vividly to my mind certain happy moments passed, alas! never to return. However, it is too late to be sentimental. Mr. W—— observed he was rather in a hurry, and insisted on my dining with him at a quarter past four, when we would talk over old affairs.

I promised to be punctual to the time, and as he was going away in came young A—— D—— to invite me to dine with him, saying, Mr. M——

would be there to meet me. Poor fellow! I was already annoyed enough with robbing him of his half sovereign, without putting him to greater expense; and happy of a good excuse, observed that I was already engaged. At this reply he appeared to be very much disappointed.

He asked me if I were disengaged, and would like to take a *tour a piè* about the town? "With all my heart," I replied, and after a promenade of about an hour, I found myself close by his house. "Come, Señor," said he, after we had entered, as he opened a small cupboard of eatables; "With "me it's tout a fait á la Guerilla; will you take any "luncheon?" He laid some bread and butter on the table, and making an apology for the simplicity of the fare, added, he cared little about the pleasures of eating and drinking.

As I was helping myself, my attention was attracted to several drawings on the table, and I asked if they were his. He replied, "Yes;" and brought out a portfolio containing his various productions. Some of them were figures, but principally landscapes, and executed remarkably well. Begging me to excuse him, he left the room to attend to some one who wished to see him. I amused myself with his productions until I came to the portrait of a lady in crayons, which I immediately recognised as Miss A—— P——.

D—— never could have thought of this being here I'm sure, or he would not have allowed it to

be gazed on by another, or placed so carelessly amongst his other drawings; but I liked her too as well as D——, and thought it would have been no very great sin to have a copy in my possession. So, with a pencil and a card that was on the table, I sketched out a rough one, and soon put it out of sight. I then replaced the drawings carefully in the portfolio.

Seeing some foils and masks in the room, I was examining them when D—— came in, who invited me to put on the mask, and have a set-to. We commenced, and, for about five minutes, made many lounges without once touching each other; at last he gave me a tap, it would have been on the nose had not the mask been there.

I did not much admire this (an old campaigner to be beaten by a civilian), and recommenced with ardour, but found him a third too much for me. I gave him only two points out of the five. Fencing requires constant practice, which I had not had since I left London.

"You are military of course?" said I, as we concluded this *assaut d'armes.* "No, I'm not, "to my great regret. My education was naval; "but my father, he—and my family *ensemble*— "they wouldn't permit it. I entreated them to "let me go into the army at the beginning of "your revolution. Your unfortunate revolution," he added, rather quickly, as if he had not spoken

of it with sufficient feeling. "But those harpies, "who were always around him"—and here he went to the end of the room to hang up the foil, and muttered indistinctly in English, "jealous— "wretches—scoundrels." Finding I had touched upon a delicate subject, I changed it to books, and began to look over his library. "Are you "fond of reading," said he, "though I suppose "you are; and if there are any Spanish, or "foreign books of any sort you may like, I beg "you will do me the favour to accept them."

He joined my inspection, and took up an edition of Shakespeare, saying, "Here is the God "of dramatists. Could you but understand "English well enough to read him, you would "enjoy a treat indeed. You have an excellent "substitute in the comic Moliere, as well as your "namesake, Garcilaso, and Lopez. We have "some good comedies, but the foreigners beat "us. Our climate disposes us to be fonder of "tragedy than the Continentals. By the bye— "here is a modern tragedy, which I think you "would much like to read. The characters are "rather strained, but the general feature of it is "well sustained." He begged me to sit down, and he would read a little to me. It was Lucius Junius; and, in translating, he passed rather lightly over it, giving me the principal subject, until he came to where Lucius Junius Brutus conducts the

people to arms against the Tarquins. Here he read it verbatim, and took great pains to explain its various points of merit.

I had read it frequently, as well as seen it performed; but I was much pleased with the earnestness with which he read it to me. "What think you "of this?" said he, when he had finished. "How "could I do otherwise than like it?" I replied. "I only see one fault in it, if that is to be called "a fault, which is the father ordering his sons to "be killed; but to the principal feature of the "play—as an emigrant suffering from a tyrant, "how could I fail to admire it?" "I wish, "Señor," said he, "that I could be a Lucius "Junius in Spain, for your sake, as well as your "brave compatriots. I would soon hurl the "petticoat-making king, and his satellites, to the "Devil; or any where else——but it too frequently "happens, that the thing we wish most is the "farthest from our grasp. Perhaps you will do "me the favour to accept this play as a little "memorial of me; and, when you are better ac-"quainted with the English, you will then be "able to participate in its enthusiasm, which at "present is lost to you from the imperfect manner "in which I have translated it." I paid him some little compliment in reply, and accepted it.

"Here is a little thing in manuscript called the "memorials of a 'Deserted Son.' Let me read "some of it to you, though I fear it's on too dole-

"ful a strain?" "Not at all," I replied; "habit "makes me accustomed to my present affliction, "and I should be happy to hear it; but before I "trouble you, will you do me the favour to let "me know how the time goes?" He rang the bell, and I was informed it was half past four.

I scrambled on my cloak and hat, saying, I was a quarter of an hour behind my time, and wished him good day; first agreeing at his request to be at the P——s in the evening. I made as much haste as possible to Mr. W—— and made many apologies for being so late. "Never mind," said he, "since you *have* come." After dinner I pressed him with innumerable questions respecting my friends at Newport: to all of which he gave satisfactory answers. I was very happy to hear that my friend Mr. R—— was promoted in his profession, and returned to Ireland. He had shown me a great deal of attention, both at Newport and Pont-y-pool, where I had every opportunity of seeing his many virtues, in the characters of a private gentleman and priest. I do not know any one for whom I bear a greater respect, or any one who more deserves it.

At half past seven I left my friend, who was going to Newport; and receiving from him a hearty shake of the hand, returned to my lodging to remake my toilette for the P——s. I couldn't help laughing to myself, when young D—— introduced me to Miss P——, as the old witch had

told him there was a P. he was fond of, which I dare say she had learnt in the village. I was received very kindly by the very amiable Mrs. P——, and her charming daughter; and handed to a chair by Mr. A—— D——. Music was our principal amusement. D——'s guitar was frequently in use, but played only by me; he being, poor fellow, unfortunately in one of those desponding moods, he was so frequently subject to.

Miss P—— favoured me with some music from "the Barbiere di Seviglia," and in excellent style; but I could clearly perceive that she was a little distressed, as well as her mamma, about D———. She sang him a comic song; when he asked her to give him his favourite, and she played Weber's last "Dying speech and confession," a Waltz—but it's too bad to crack a joke on the occasion—the poor fellow seemed to listen to this melancholy air with great satisfaction.

It did not require much observation to see that he was suffering from strong mental affliction; although in ordinary, or at least whenever I had seen him, he appeared to be in excellent spirits. I proposed a quadrille to Mrs. P——, for although I regretted young D——'s dejectedness, still I thought there was no reason for all of us to be so. Mrs. P—— replied rather reluctantly, "Very "well;" and then looked at her daughter, and another young lady. The former shook her head, the latter remained mute; so finding it would be

disagreeable, I took up the "Souvenir," and amused myself with some of the prints.

"D——," said Miss P———, in so sweet a tone that I could have wished his misery mine to have heard such words uttered on *my* account; "I'm sorry you are so dull to night, pray don't "be so low spirited, 'tis such a folly." "Oh! "my dear A——," said he, affecting a carelessness, "I'm not low spirited; you must imagine it "surely. But is it not extraordinary that this "young Spanish lad preserves such good spirits? "and God knows what difficulties he may have "seen. The very circumstance of his exile, and "attended with such a dreadful fall of dignity, "one would suppose must have crushed his "youthful mind; and yet, good heavens! how "contented he appears. I wish *I* could; but it's "impossible he can be happy, or that all that "blessed indifference arises from his own phi- "losophy. 'Tis a divine interference. I had "a little opportunity of conversing with the "lad on religious topics, and I found his "thoughts and actions were much guided by its "precepts. You may rely upon it, it is in this "way he seeks for consolation, and he's thereby "enabled to wear that smiling face.

"This is a strong proof of the universal be- "nignity of the Omnipotent above. But why he "should be allowed to suffer so much, in a good "cause, is out of my power to conceive. 'Tis

"the Divine will, and we must therefore be satis-
"fied with it. But, poor lad, the same God, who
"watched him through all his misfortunes, still
"watches with his merciful kindness. I doubt
"not he's conscious of it, and waits patiently a
"return of prosperity. A good deed always meets
"with a reward sooner or later."

"D——," said the young lady, "I agree with
"you perfectly; it is only in a full reliance on
"the graciousness of our God that we can look
"for permanent happiness, and a support during
"our afflictions. But why do *you* not profit
"by your own reasoning? Why give way to
"such despondency, when you see this Spanish
"gentleman bears all his with such a light heart?
"Really D——, to be aware of a remedy, and—"
"My dear A——," said he, stopping her short
in her remarks, "you are mistaken in me; I
"assure you, I am by no means dejected; I like
"to be serious sometimes as well as volatile."
"Well, then," said the young lady, "if so, sup-
"pose we have a little music, and by way of pre-
"lude to your playing to me the guitar, I'll sing,
"'Away with Melancholy.'" "De tout mon
"coeur," said he, and they went to the pianoforte.

Young D—— tapped me on the shoulder, say-
ing, "We are going to have a little music." I
affected to have been very attentive to the book,
and started as I answered him.

After the young lady had finished, D——

favoured us, and then put the guitar into my hands. I did my best; and a Miss F——, one of the visitors, gave us a specimen of her vocal powers, which were exceedingly good. I excused myself rather early, being obliged to get up very soon the following morning for the coach. D—— again asked the young lady to press me to stop one more day: which she did with her usual gracefulness of manner.

Fearful of this irresistable spell, I had already paid for my place; and making my best acknowledgment for the honour she conferred upon me, said, I was positively obliged to leave. Mrs. P—— and her daughter now honoured me by shaking hands, and wished me all the happiness possible, and a speedy return to my own country.

D—— insisted on accompanying me home. On our way he asked me my address in London, adding that he would soon be after me. I gave him my *real address*, and he gave me his agent's; wishing me a good night, he promised to meet me at the coach office in the morning.

CHAPTER XIII.

Welch Sympathy—I leave Brecon—A Walk—The Book—A Parting—Arrive at Built—Llandrindrid Wells—The Landlord—The Salt Waters—A Post Chaise—My Companion—A Bottle of Sherry—Its effects on the Post Boy—Arrive at New Town—Then at Welch Pool—A Lady frightened—The Consequence—An Affecting Discovery—I adopt a New Method and fail—The Old One succeeds—The Theatre.

My mind was greatly absorbed by the mystery that seemed to hang over my young friend, and conscious that he must be suffering much from some unfortunate cause or other, I pitied him from the bottom of my heart. My good landlady was very industrious, like the generality of the Welch, and washing some clothes below stairs. I invented an excuse for her to come to my room, and again interrogated her on the subject of Mr. D——. She could give me no more information than she had already done; and, as usual, expressed her warmest feelings in his behalf. Telling her to call me at half past six, she retired, and I tumbled into bed.

I was called punctually, and found a very excellent breakfast ready. I hurried over this meal, and, sending my luggage to the office, received a very hearty shake of the hand from the good landlady; and much to my surprise (for I had unjustly thought her coarse and insensible), the Welch servant girl exclaimed, " Poor fellow!!"

I found Mr. D—— kindly waiting for me, and the coach (or, more properly speaking, the two horse covered van) was not ready. " As the " coach is not ready," said D——, " suppose we " walk on a little after your luggage is safe, till it " overtakes us." We proceeded forward, when I presented him with three songs I had arranged the previous night, and begged he would accept one as a slight token of gratitude. " My trifling " attention to you," said he, " does not deserve " the name you apply to it. I have only been " doing my duty; and I feel certain that if I were " like you, and in Spain, I should not find myself " at a loss for friends: but you may rely upon " these three songs being duly presented by me " to the persons you are so polite as to favour " them with, and I doubt not your politeness will " be duly appreciated." " Sir, you are very kind " to say so," I replied, " it is all I have in my " power to present." " Enough, my dear friend, " enough. People of education take the *will* for " the *deed.*

" Whilst on this subject, I must beg leave to

"present you with the little play, which you "inadvertently left behind in your hurry." I grasped the proffered book with avidity, through feelings of shame at having forgotten it. I was going to make an apology: he observed my embarrassment, and very kindly anticipating me, said, he believed the fault was his, and that suddenly recollecting my friend's invitation, caused it to escape my observation.

"Well, let us talk of your own affairs," said he: "I sincerely hope your expectations in London "are good?" "Quite so," I replied; and I managed to satisfy his anxiety. "I am glad "to see that you possess such good spirits; but, "of course, I am not aware how frequently you "may be otherwise. You must sometimes feel "very keenly your change of circumstances: the "recollection of your former dignity must be "fresh in your memory. Your present, though "honourable humility, must subject you to great "uneasiness: and then, the whims—the con-"tumely of the illiterate, purse-proud——but "here, alas! is the carriage.

"So we are to part at last, but I hope to meet "again very soon." "Sir," said I, "I feel in-"finitely the many favours I have received from "you; and, if there be any thing of which I shall "always feel truly proud, it is the many con-"descensions you have displayed towards me. "Your kindness must always command my grati-

" tude as long as I live." " Señor, Señor," said he, " why this language to me? We are but " boys together. I have only been doing my " duty to one I consider every way my superior. " I'm sure you would have done the same to me. " God bless you, *Bannissez la melancolie*, and " recollect that there are others who suffer as well " as yourself." He pressed my hand with all the ardour of a brother, and bade me adieu.

My feelings had never been so worked upon in my life; and for the soul of me I could not help *shedding many* tears as the van drove away.

Poor D——, he entirely absorbed my faculties; my mind was directed to the mysterious affliction which tormented him. I reflected on every thing he had said—every thing that had occurred, and all gave evidence of some violent commotion in the mind. I would positively have given a great deal to participate in his misfortunes, if it could have been beneficial to him.

In this distressing reflection I arrived at Built, about ten miles from Brecon, scarce aware of being in the van. A waiter roused me from my reverie, by bawling out, " Refreshment, Sir;" and I was glad to have the door shut again, awaiting inside till the horses were changed.

Recollecting young D——'s present (I have it now), I unlocked my carpet bag, and carefully secured it. The coachman again mounted his seat, and we drove off at a very good pace. After

another change, we arrived, by one o'clock, at a little insulated spot, in the middle of a large common, called Llandrindrid Wells, making in all about twenty-six miles.

I was told by the coachman, that it was the usual place of dining, and could have my half hour; and that he didn't purpose stopping at any other place, except to change horses, before their journey's end. I was by no means hungry, but went into the parlour of the inn, and the landlord, very politely handing me a chair, proceeded to lay the table for me: he was assisted by rather a pretty young woman, who, notwithstanding my little *tristesse* for my young friend, did not escape my observation.

I could not help remarking the loneliness of the situation to the landlord, and asked the cause. "God bless me, Sir," said he, much astonished at my interrogatory, "don't you know Llandrindrid "Wells? I thought every body knew this "place, Sir: it's the most fashionable place "possible for the people to drink the saline waters "of the Wells—Finest medicinal effects possible; "all the most fashionable come to it, Sir—from "*Liverpool* and *Birmingham*, and thereabouts— "all carriage folks, from eighty to a hundred at "the time, ladies and gentlemen, all stop in my "hotel: and many's the marriage that has been "made up in my house, Sir. There are many "bucks, who come here purposely to pick up a

"rich wife—you know what I mean, Sir;" and here he gave a peculiarly knowing wink of his eye, and a short sort of toss of the head. I was rather pleased with his loquacity than otherwise, and encouraged it by saying something rather complimentary; though his account of the *Liverpool* and *Birmingham* fashionables certainly could not fail to create a smile.

He spoke largely in praise of the waters, the variety and profusion, so that my curiosity was excited, and I was induced to give them a trial. The first I found so exceedingly salt, that I did not venture any farther; and must confess, although they may be very beneficial, that I should be very loth to try them, unless I was *possitively* ill.

After partaking of a cold collation, and some hot brandy and water, I paid my fare to Welch Pool, thirty-six miles distant; and got into a post chaise, which was ordered out instead of the stage coach in consequence of the heaviness of the roads; of which I was by no means sorry, for the weather was exceedingly uncomfortable.

We soon got over the first stage of ten miles; and then changed coaches as well as horses. Here I was honoured with the company of a very good natured-looking old lady, with whom I thought common civility required me to enter into conversation. She was nothing loth to have a little "bit o'gossip;" and, in the course of

conversation, she told me she followed the very detergent calling of washerwoman. "A very "good one," said I, smilingly; and I invited her to partake of a little sherry, having secured a bottle before I started. Apologizing for the want of a glass, I presented the bottle to her. "I "thank ye, Sir," said she, with a smile, to appear graciously *reconnoisante*. However, she managed to take as much as she wished, and then passing her apron over the neck, returned it to me. The bottle catching the eyes of the coachman (a class of gentlemen always on the alert when drinking is in the way), I felt myself obliged to offer it to him. "Your hel, Sir," said he, and then put it to his mouth, where it remained so long that I was afraid of the bottle returning empty: *at last* he stopped, to my great joy, gave his lips a good smack, the neck of the bottle several rubs with the cuff of his sleeve, and returned it to me, saying, "It's uncommon good, Sir, thank ye."

His approbation was but a poor return for the loss; so giving the neck of the bottle a few more rubs with my handkerchief, I vowed I'd never offer the coachman any more of it. In about ten minutes I found he became uncommonly merry, laughing and cracking his jokes at a famous rate. I was travelling by a new road that had been made for the sake of shortness, and it was in consequence very soft and bad. Here Master Coachee

showed symptoms of being fuddled, and I was afraid that I should never get to the end of the post. However, after suffering a great deal of jolting from his bad driving, being nearly overturned on several occasions, for which I heaped upon him a lot of broken English oaths; we arrived at the end of this stage. Here we changed to a small open chaise, with two horses in tandem, a little post-boy, and a person on the seat.

The road now became worse than ever, and the evening came in exceedingly cold: the wind blew strong against us, and the horrid jolting of the little buggy, rendered my situation exceedingly disagreeable.

Half frozen, half jolted to death, I at last arrived at New Town, where I was glad to get along side of a rousing fire to give a little animation to my benumbed frame. By this method, and the assistance of some little whisky, in which I invited my purifying companion to join; I managed tolerably well to put myself in a comfortable glow.

I now got into the stage coach for Welch Pool, where I arrived by nine o'clock and stopped at the Bear hotel. The landlady, and bar maid, with smiling faces, immediately presented themselves attended by a train of domestiques; as if a Don of the most ancient Castilian blood, were about to patronize their establishment. Notwith-

standing my dress, when I made my appearance in the hall, some very low curtseys were made; The servants peremptorily spoken to, and I was conducted into a parlour with all due solemnity, and two large mould candles immediately *mounted.*

In came the proprietor, and bowing most reverently, asked me if I would take tea. "No," I said; "but I will take a bed here to-night." He backed out again, and I drew my chair close to a large fire, much amused with this hotel sort of etiquette. However, my funds were now low, from the great expense of coach-hire, and I knew they would be lower before I left the hotel, so I thought I would begin to economize as soon as possible, and turned out into the town to try if I could not get my tea at a more moderate rate, than of course I should have to pay at the Bear.

I went into the first shop I came to that gave any signs of satisfying my wants; and the woman behind the counter seeing me approach, ran as hard as she could into the next room, and closing the glass door against me, exclaimed, "Oh, dear! oh, dear! you shan't come in, you "shan't come in." I therefore turned out very much amused at the woman's alarm.

A man came up to me and stared me impudently in the face; I asked him, what he wanted. "What did *you* want in that shop?"

said he. "That's nothing to you," I replied. "It is though, and I'll let you know; I'll follow "you wherever you go:" and then made a variety of very insolent remarks.

Here a large crowd began to assemble around me, one of whom was the frightened woman half out of breath, with a lighted candle, exclaiming, "Oh, dear! it has given me such a turn, my "heart was up in my mouth." "What is it? "what is it?" was inquired by many around. "I'll see what it is," said my impudent assailant. Remembering how I had been insulted by that W——— of Abergavenny, I was resolved on having this fellow punished also; and examining his face by the light of the frightened woman's candle, I told him, I would remember him, and have him up before the magistrate the following day. "Ah! ah!" said he, grinningly, "you may do "that," and all the rest joined him.

As the fellow would stick to me, I desired him to accompany me to the hotel; and there inquired of the bar maid his name, telling how very much he was annoying me. *She* remonstrated with him for his conduct. "I didn't, "ma'am," said he, "annoy the man. He told me "to come here, so I did; that's all—I assure "you, that's all." I left this scoundrel, and returned to the parlour; when in came the landlord, and begged me not to take any notice of

the man, who had accosted me, as he was sure he had not done so to have been rude; but I was resolved on having him reprimanded.

I again made another attempt to get something in the eatable way, and a few yards from the hotel, I perceived a body of people talking over the affair between this fellow and myself. "God "bless you," said one, "he's a foreign nobleman." "Ah," replied the other, "how comical these men "dresses in those parts; here our merry-andrews "dresses so." Here followed a general laugh, in which I could not help silently joining. I made an attempt at two or three other places, and found that my appearance created equal signs of fear, as in the first case.

I really never could have supposed, that so much timidity could exist amongst this class of people, particularly in this part of the kingdom. At last I managed to get something at a chandler's shop; and then returned to the hotel, and being exceedingly tired went off to bed immediately.

The next morning, at half-past eight, I got up, tolerably recovered from the jolting effects of my journey. My thoughts again reverted to my interesting young friend. Every thing that happened during my short acquaintance with him came vividly across the imagination: there appeared to be an impenetrable mystery hanging over him, that greatly attracted my attention.

At ten o'clock, I proceeded to look for apartments. After seeking for some time, I could get nothing better than a very small room, I had at first met with and strongly pressed to accept by the owner. When I asked his terms, he looked enquiringly at his good old wife, who was standing by, for her opinion. She appeared to be embarrassed, and pulled her thumb about. There was a slight pause, as if for a little reflection; and the man at last said, "Well, now, "will two shillings a week be too much for you?" "I will give you three," I replied; and thus the matter ended very agreeably to both parties.

I begged the old lady to arrange my breakfast whilst her spouse went to the hotel for my luggage. My breakfast was soon prepared, and having an excellent appetite, I enjoyed it very much, and then gave my good landlady a stave on my guitar. It was her washing day, and I struck up the air of that name, which seemed very much to amuse them all.

Having thus conciliated the good opinion of the old lady, a task I always found very necessary on first entering a lodging, for the lower order of people have not the most favourable opinion of foreigners, I retired to my own room. My luggage being brought in, I proceeded to make arrangements for turning out with my guitar to increase my funds, which were getting very low.

The first thing I pulled out of my bag was the last thing I put into it; namely, D——'s present; and I was induced to take off the paper in which it was wrapped, for it immediately recalled to my mind the amiable donor and his unhappy fate. To my surprise, I found three sovereigns within the little book. Poor fellow! I had already suffered for having deprived him of his money at Brecon; and now to be the cause of robbing him of a sum, which I knew must be large to his small fortune, made me very unhappy. On occasions like these, I have already given my opinion; but whatever might be the result, I could not possitively think of keeping it. I therefore wrote a letter, worded as delicately as I could, and enclosed the money. "God bless the lad!" in his own language, will I say of him: "good deeds always meet with their reward, sooner or later;" and I sincerely trust his will meet with theirs. I immediately took the letter to the post office, and returned to "harness" myself for the field.

Having so long left the common duties of the Minstrel, and been made so much of, I at first felt considerable awkwardness. I had also some reluctance to resume my former style of playing in the streets, having been treated with so much respect; and I thought it would be exceedingly disagreeable to the feelings of those with whom I had entered on terms of intimacy and perfect equality. Not seeing the immediate necessity of

actually playing in the streets, and being as likely to meet with as many interesting adventures as an in-door player, and the weather being exceedingly cold; I resolved on going to the different houses, and ask them if they would like to hear me play. Accordingly I knocked at three or four; but I found that the servants shut the doors in my face with remarkable celerity, either saying, I have nothing to give you master, or nothing at all; thinking, perhaps, that my intentions were not the most honest.

Human nature requires attraction, thought I, and finding that no one would give me a hearing, I pulled my guitar from my bag, and strung it round my neck. I was immediately employed by an elderly lady, who was sitting at her window, and invited in doors, and several young ladies, her neighbours, were asked to hear me. Before I left my fair auditors, they presented me with six shillings, and gave me one or two persons' addresses to visit.

To one of them I went in the evening named P——, according to his particular request, and after playing some time, he presented me with a *half crown.* There was something in his manners I did not like, and hearing him talk of his being acquainted with Lord C——, in the neighbourhood, I asked him for a letter of *recommendation.* "Oh?" said he, "I am not on such intimate terms "*as that;* but you can go there of your own accord."

I thanked him for his *kindness;* and making my bow, retired very much amused with his extensive *connection* with nobility.

At nine o'clock I went to the little theatre in the town, where I met with an Irish boot maker. At my request he took me behind the scenes, where I made my bow to some of the actresses, and passed a few complimentary remarks. On the play being over I was conducted to the Lion Inn, which was frequented by the theatrical troop.

Here were a great many Welchmen carousing over their favourite "curru" (ale), on which occasions they generally possess great vivacity. They frequently drank my health in Welch, saying (as well as I can write it), "Iachid da y chwie," and I returned them my thanks with, "Diolch yn fawr I chwie." The result was a good laugh at my Welch, and a wager whether indeed I was not a Cambrian. One of the actors came along side of me, and privately made a cross to me. I immediately replied by making another, though it was so long since I crossed myself, that I forgot I was a catholic. "We have "not a catholic chapel here," said O'B———, the boot maker; "but if you will dine with me on Sun-"day we will have prayers afterwards." I thought his kindness was *too* great to avail myself of it, so begged to be excused the honour on account of another engagement. At half past ten I left the merry Cambrians, and returned to my lodgings.

CHAPTER XIV.

An Uncouth Reception at L—— — I offer to sing at the Theatre — A Musical Party at the Bear — Spanish Serenades — The Play Bill — The Harpist — Behind the Curtain — The Debut — Great Success—Flattery—The Effects of Puffing — A Manager's Anxiety — A Straw Bonnet Maker — The Bar Maid—A Fever — A Panacea—A Set-to.

THE following day I went to Mrs. P—— of Llanhahillad, who had already been informed of my intended visit; but I was desired to sing and play in the hall, whilst my auditors were invisible in the drawing room. I did not think this savoured much of good breeding, but of course did as I was bid. I determined to ask for a letter to Lord C——. The butler received my message, and accordingly proceeded up with my request. After remaining a long time, he returned with an answer similar to the one the other Mr. P—— had given me. "But why," said a female servant standing by, "don't she give him a letter to Lady L——, "that's the best way." "She can't take that "liberty," said the other; "she is not sufficiently

"intimate;" at which I could not resist a smile. There was no lack of money, by way of remuneration, or refreshment. The former only I accepted, and then went away not very well pleased, resolving to let the manner of my reception at the rich people's houses fly round the town.

It is curious what strange ideas vulgar people have of the requisites of keeping up their dignity, when they happen to have the good luck of coming into a good deal of money by the sweat of their *parents' brows*. Had I really have been the unfortunate Spanish officer I pretended, it would have been galling indeed to have been treated in this way.

I called on O'B—— on my way back, where I met the proprietor of the little theatre, and I volunteered my services to sing for him, if he thought it would be of any use. He made me a bow, and accepted my offer. I enumerated two or three songs which he might insert in the programme.

In the evening I went to the Bear Hotel to meet a musical party of gentlemen, who had invited me thither, and put myself under the convoy of neighbour G——, who conducted me. I could not help smiling, as I entered the spot, where but recently so many very low curtseys were made to me; for now I was wonderfully changed in the good folks' estimation.

I was received with great politeness by the company, and I found they had invited a young

gentleman who played the harp, as a little mark of attention to me. He played with a great deal of taste, and under his direction our two instruments sounded very beautifully together—assisted by the imitation of a trumpet, which one of the company had the talents to effect with his mouth. After I had been listening to some Welch airs on the harp, and some very excellent duets by different members of the company, I playing my share, and paying my frequent respects to some very excellent negus, I was asked by a gentleman how we serenaded our *favourite one* in Spain, and many of the others seemed to await with considerable attention for my reply.

"There's nothing extraordinary in it," I replied; "the playing is the same as on any other occa-"sion." The English have ordinarily very curious ideas of this kind of amusement, and perceiving them ripe to listen to any thing my *fancy* might suggest, I continued: "You must not talk "of serenades in this country, it is not adapted "for it. In Spain, where we serenade, the even-"ings are delightfully serene and warm, the moon "shines brilliantly, and a lady, with her window "open, listens attentively to you. In England "the evenings are cold and dreary, the moon "dull; the lady, with her window shut, peeping "through the blinds, is kept off at a *respectable* "distance by iron railings; and, if you escape the "vigilance of the watchman, you are drowned by

"a bowl of water, which the suspicious father "throws out upon you, who concludes that you "are come to rob his house: therefore serenades "in England are by no means agreeable."

This afforded them all a good laugh, particularly the conclusion; and they begged me to relate it over again, that they might get it by heart. To this succeeded some good singing and harp-playing, when the party broke up at about eleven, and Dr. J—— presented me with some money wrapped up in paper, insisting on my acceptance. I found my refusal of no avail, and returned to my lodgings.

The next morning a bill of the play was left at my house. There was a dreadful violation of the Italian language, scarcely one of the names of the songs were spelt right. Some *little* puffing, and it concluded by saying I would perform airs in *nine* different languages!! Pit two shillings. Gallery one shilling.

In the morning, Mr. H————, the young gentleman who played the harp, called on me, and invited me to take my guitar to his house. We set off together, and he introduced me to his mother, and showed me various gold and silver medals, which his brother had obtained as prizes for his superior performance on this as well as several other instruments. He was a professor of five. After we had played for some time, *he* found out a crack in my guitar which materially

affected its sound, and conducted me to a carpenter to have it glued. For the present I left him, and returned home, to amuse myself with reading until the evening.

I again went to hear young H——— play his harp, and very shortly his brother, the professor, came in, to whom I was introduced, and received a very kind shake of the hand. This gentleman favoured us with some very excellent music of Mozart's.

Taken up with his delightful performance, I stopped until I found I had exceeded the appointed time at the theatre; and made as much haste as possible to return home to make my toilette for the occasion. I found the proprietor awaiting me, frightened lest his theatre would have been pulled down at my neglect; in which suspense I only kept him another quarter of an hour, and then accompanied him to the theatre.

I found the house excessively full, and, as a natural result, the countenances of the *artistes* were brilliantly illuminated by smiles and rouge. There was nothing but bowing and scraping to me: no attention could be too great. The peep-hole in the curtain was always in constant requisition, and I found I had really enough to do to resist the continued importunities to drink grog, &c., by the overjoyed performers.

One act being over, the manager asked me if I would permit a person to conduct me on the

stage, as I was rather *unaccustomed.* "Oh! cer-"tainly," said I. A whistle was given, and I marched on, greeted by a tremendous clap of hands. I made my bow, and when the noise had ceased, I hem'd first, and then began the "*sud* "*margine,*" as he called it. Great clapping of hands followed. I then gave them another, amidst thunders of applause, and backed out.

"I dare say," said an actress to me, as I went off, "this is an event in your life you never anti-"cipated; and you have performed your part, "considering it was the first time, *admirably.*" "Such praise as yours," I replied, "will give me "greater confidence next time." Next followed the congratulations of all the rest. The play now went on, and after another change of scene, the manager said to me, "*Just* play this time some Welch "and Russian airs." "I can't play them," said I, with a laugh; "who told you I could." "Why, God bless me, Mr. S——," exclaimed the manager, "didn't you tell me this gentleman "could play Welch and Russian?" S—— looked enquiringly at me. "No, no," said I, "I can't "play them. I told you, 'you might *puff* me "'as much as you liked.'" "My dear Sir," said the frightened manager, "pray play something as "well as you can, or else I shall have my theatre "pulled down. They can't distinguish one lan-"guage from another. Never mind, we must "hazard, now; up with the curtain." When

half way up, I said for fun, "My guitar's not in "tune." "Down with it, not ready," cried the manager; and I pretended to remedy the evil, and then said I was prepared. The whistle was given, and up the curtain went again. "No, not "ready," said I: "Down with it again—not "ready," exclaimed the manager, angrily at the curtain puller, as though it had been his fault. The people in the gallery began to make a dreadful noise, and the manager appeared to be alarmed for the stability of his theatre. Poor fellow, he *suffered* enough for the full house I got him. At last I was led in by Mr. S——.

I sang two canzonettas, and played a seguidilla, and then retired for the last time. "I per"ceive, Sir," said the manager to me, "that you "had more confidence this time." I bowed in return, but thought it would require something more than this motley group, assembled at his theatre, to make me diffident.

I passed the remainder of the evening with Mr. H——, at the Bear Hotel, where there was a very pretty bar maid, generally considered the prettiest girl in the town; and I must confess I did not think her undeserving of the praise.

The next morning I made some enquiries of my landlady respecting the pretty bar maid at the Bear Inn. "Lah! Sir, you mean Miss Ll——; "she is the sweetheart of Mr. H——." "And "who is that pretty girl," said I, "I saw in the

"theatre;" and here followed a description of her. "She is a Miss N——, Sir, a straw bonnet "maker." "Then," said I, "I want something "done to my hat, and I wish you would conduct "me there." "My husband shall do so, Sir," was the reply; and accordingly after breakfast he took me to the house, and introduced me to the pretty straw bonnet maker.

I gave some little instructions about my hat, and spoke of the great nicety I was desirous the alteration to be made to, and that she need not hurry herself. She gave it several turns with her hand, smiled, and then said she admired the shape; finally, paid me a compliment on my performance at the theatre. I was not behind hand in returning her compliments. Her old mother seemed to fidget excessively, but would not leave the room; so, for the present, I wished the pretty straw bonnet maker good morning.

In the evening I went again to see her, and stopped for about two hours, during which time I made an appointment to return with my guitar; but I was as before, at best, *politely* turned out by her over anxious mamma. I called on H——, and he invited me to accompany him to the Bear Hotel. He could not have made a more agreeable proposal. He added, "If Miss Ll—— ask you "to play the guitar, don't do so, because she has "offended me very much." I promised him I would not.

The pretty bar maid looked remarkably well, and greeted me with a smile as I entered; but, alas! there was no smile for H———. Anticipating some coolness from him, she was in advance, looked serious, and in return to his formal bow, she curtsied after the same manner. Miss Ll——— possessed more adroitness in the art of flirting than her cavalier; put on smiles to all — spoke of my music in *rapturous* terms, and *begged* me to play.

I looked at H———, he made no signal of counter order, and I was in honour bound to excuse myself, saying I had a head-ache. She said she was very, very sorry to hear me say I was ill; and, as usual, smiled to all save the offended and offending lover.

At length, softer recollections began visibly to prevail, and broke down the stern resolution. It is a pitiable case indeed to be thus circumstanced. H——— at last retracted the *unfortunate wish;* and now asked me to play my guitar. I of course complied, and perceived that the girl clearly understood the cause of my refusing her. The little misunderstanding was now cleared up between the two lovers, though they did not congratulate themselves much by words on the occasion. But what am I talking about? "Love has "eyes" to speak with, and I might not have observed their silent communication.

H——— favoured us also with some performance

on the flute; and I amused myself talking to the pretty bar-maid, and found her an exceedingly agreeable girl; and by the time I rose to depart, such were my feelings, that I thought for the future I should not be so ready to humour my friend in *his* wishes, as I had now *wishes* of my own.

This is not just dealing, certainly, to partake, "as Jack the Gipsy said," of his hospitality, and then to supersede him in his lady's favour. I saw my error, and therefore only committed the sin of *wishing* but for a short time.

The following day I was in a violent fever; great dizziness in my head, attended with considerable pain; indeed I was so bad, that I could not raise my head at all. It was lucky enough, a young disciple of Esculapius, named J——, called; he felt my pulse, and proposed copious bleeding. I knew it would have done me good, and therefore gave him my arm for that purpose; but he thought for the present he would send me some medicine, until he had consulted Dr. J——, a very eminent surgeon, under whom he was now studying.

The doctor was so polite as to call on me very soon afterwards, and recommended me to drink copiously of the medicines, as they would do away with the necessity of the bleeding. I followed his advice, and by the night found myself considerably better. During the day numerous inquiries were made after my health: this was

very kind; but it certainly almost bothered me to death.

The next morning I was wonderfully improved, and when the doctors visited me, they recommended me to get up towards the afternoon, and take a little walk. I followed their orders to the very letter, paid great attention to my toilette, and crossed the road to pay a visit to the little straw bonnet maker; for I have always found the company of a pretty girl the best panacea in sickness. I passed the evening with her; and her old mother being out, I was not under any disagreeable restraint.

One really cannot go any where in a country town without its being known. It was soon buzzed about that I was well, and where I had made my retreat; in consequence of which, about seven o'clock, I was visited by several persons, and so much annoyed, that I left the charming Miss N—— and returned home.

The next day I was perfectly recovered, and paid the H——s a visit. Here I met the landlord of the Oak Inn, who was sparring with the gloves, and invited me to a set-to. I don't know how I was so foolish as to accept his invitation, for I have never practised this art; but I did—and what was the consequence—he gave me such a dreadful thump on the head, that he set it aching as bad as ever, undoing all the good effects of the doctors and Miss N——. I threw

down the gloves, silently *cursed* him as a "publi-"can and sinner," and then returned home so ill, that I was glad to go to bed.

It was fortunate that I had recovered the ill effects of this person's heavy fist by the next morning; for I was engaged with my guitar at a lady's house, who spoke to me of my reception at Llanhahillod, and assured me, that Mrs. P——— could never have intended me any disrespect; and that it must have arisen entirely from mistake.

I did not concern myself about the affair any more; though I believe that what the lady said imght be very true, as the person who spoke to Mrs. P——, was the stupid fellow who gave me a half crown; and it is likely enough he spoke of me with indifference, and might have caused her to have thought me a "common minstrel."

In the evening I called on little H———, and asked *him* to accompany me to the Bear Inn, his brother being absent on professional duties. I found the pretty Miss Ll—— looking remarkably well, and alone. My guitar was soon sent for. I sang a little to her; and then laughed and talked at a famous rate. She said she was fond of dancing; when I immediately tumbled the chairs on one side to make room, and we waltzed. It would be very ungallant in me to say she squeezed my hand, not like a chivalrous troubadour at all; but, upon my word, I fancied she did,

so squeezed hers, and immediately suggested another room to go to for the sake of greater space. Accordingly we went, but finding no light in the room, young H—— went for one; and I, during his absence, did only what every rational person would have done on finding himself alone with a pretty girl in the dark. Oh this darkness! It is a dreadful conductor to deeds which the light forbids. It renders the reason and conscience perfectly subservient to the wishes.

Young H—— returned with the candle; and we commenced some steps of some sort for a while, and relapsed into conversation. The bar having been vacant some time, the landlady sent out for us. H—— led the way, and I followed, first repeating what I did as I entered.

I really don't know that ever my *frail mortality* was so put to the trial as on the present occasion. Thus far I considered I had acted very fairly towards H——, and with an immense deal of fortitude.

> "He that is robbed, not wanting what is stolen :
> " Let him not know, and he's not robb'd at all."

Ergo, as H—— could not possibly know what had transpired between his fair enamorata and myself, he could have no reason to complain. I followed the pretty little creature into the bar, where I chatted away another agreeable hour, and returned home.

CHAPTER XV.

A Theatrical Engagement offered—A Rival—An Evening Party—A Fine Ear—A Curate at Supper—A Serenade—The Result—The Key Hole—An Old acquaintance—A Digression—A Sacred Divertimento—A Short Road—A Wager—A Sly Invitation—I leave Welch Pool.

THE next morning the manager of the theatre called on me to make proposals for engaging *me*; adding, that he felt certain it would answer both our purposes. I told him I was particularly flattered, but must decline; when he bowed, and went away. By the bye, I have forgotten to say any thing about the receipts of the theatre the night I played. Each person had four times more than his usual amount, and the next day the manager thanked me accordingly.

I could not resist taking a peep in at the Bear Inn to see the pretty little heroine of the last night's adventure; and at three o'clock I went off to Dr. J——'s to dinner, and was introduced to his lady. The dinner party was small, consisting of only one visitor beside myself, which was little

J——; but I do not recollect ever enjoying myself more. The doctor brought out several very choice wines on my account, which I esteemed a great honour, and he gave me to understand, afterwards, that it was only to his particular friends that he gave them.

After dinner there was a long discussion between the doctor and his lady, about making up a musical party in the evening; and the arrangements being settled, we went to the drawing room. Very shortly Mr. H—— was announced; and, being a favourite everywhere, was received with cordiality by my worthy host and hostess. "How do you do," said I; "very glad to see "you." But you little think what I have been doing, said I *to myself*, for I am *remarkably* conscientious on these points. He gave me a most friendly shake of the hand, and after asking about my health, he spoke about Miss Ll——, and asked many questions about her. The subject was too *delicate* for my nerves, so I changed it as soon as possible.

At half past six the lady visitors made their *entrée*, and the evening's amusement opened with the harp and guitar together; after which followed a succession of duets and trios, in which the doctor was a great amateur, and always took an active part. The doctor's ear was found to be so delicately fine, that, if the slightest noise happened during the performance, he was sure to de-

tect it, and remonstrated warmly on the *gross inattention*. The maid servant entering the room in the middle of a trio to put some coals on the fire, the doctor walked up to her, took the skuttle from her hand, and motioning her to walk as gently as possible, led her to the door. There was something so exceedingly droll in this, that every one gave way to a fit of laughter, and the trio was broken up. The doctor rang the bell, and gave particular orders to the servant *never* to enter the room in the middle of a song.

There was an elderly lady, who varied the performance by her mandolin, and seemed to threaten us with many of her *sweet airs;* which the doctor's delicate ears, not being able to endure, he put a stop to them by an ironical compliment, which could not fail to be understood. Supper was now announced, and, as arranged, the ladies proceeded first, whilst the gentlemen amused themselves with their trios.

It was now our turn to go to supper, where the wine passed round very freely; but particularly a favourite Welch mixture, called "Swig," composed of ale, sugar, and toast. The bowl was passed round, and each person drank out of it *a la Galloise*. The *curate*, after taking his *quantam sufficit*, suggested sobriety. "Confine your lec-" "tures to the pulpit, if you please," said the doctor, whom I perceived was displeased at

this remark, and the curate was very justly burlesqued on the occasion; in fact, he had drank more than any of us. After supper we joined the ladies, and singing was resumed. I was very much amused at hearing the doctor relating to some ladies my account of the English and Spanish serenades; and he laughed very heartily over the *waterfall* part. The ladies left us at one, and the gentlemen continued until two, making their offerings to Apollo and Bacchus; the latter deity at the close seemed to be the prevailing favourite, for one and all were very agreeably exhilirated.

Some one suggested that we should, as it was a very fine moonlight night, serenade Mr. G——, and I was of course to play the guitar. Accordingly we all started together, and I walked arm in arm with the doctor, when he put a sovereign into my hand, begging me to accept it.

Arriving at G——'s house they commenced a trio of "Auld Lang Syne." The unfortunate inmate not making his appearance in acknowledgment, little J—— set to throwing some stones at his window, and finally broke open the door. Poor G——, in his night shirt, with a lighted candle in one hand, and rubbing his eyes open with the other, then made his appearance, saying very good naturedly, "Well, now, gentlemen, what "will you take?" "Give us something to drink,"

exclaimed little J——, and G—— immediately proceeded to his cellar, for a bottle of his best ale.

The doctor, who had been enjoying the scene at a little distance, now made his appearance, and affected to be very much surprised to find us here. " I assure you, Mr. G——," said he, " I " left these fellows to go home quietly." " It's " not of the slightest consequence," said the other, with great good temper, whilst the doctor was enjoying a hearty laugh.

The bottle of ale was soon emptied down the parched throats of these merry fellows, and as we proceeded up the street, they proposed to serenade Miss N——. After singing, " Meet me by Moonlight," before her house, a head, enveloped in a cap, made its appearance. " My dear " Miss N——," said I, " pray open the window," when I discovered, oh, *fors ignora!* the phiz of her old father. " C'est son pere," said I, " c'est son " pere," and took to my heels. I heard the windows crack, and the door kicked most lustily, but did not stop to ascertain who was the refractory agent, though I had no doubt it was little J——. At home I found my worthy landlord sitting up for me, but he let me in without a murmur.

The next morning the whole village was in a bustle on account of this nightly Cambro-Spanish serenade. Little J—— had not only broken

N———'s windows, but those of various other people. Numerous iron railings were also prostrated by his extraordinary excitement, the principal blame of which fell on me; and old N——— did not fail to curse the Spaniard for introducing his d— foreign customs in the quiet town of Welch Pool, vowing that he should never enter his house again. Poor devil! he did not recollect that gentlemen's serenades were intended for ladies. I called on little J——— and his friend H———, and heard a full narrative of their freaks, and a good laugh over them. Young H———, stupid boy, said to me, "Who kissed Miss Ll— "the other night, when dancing with her?" "Not "you," said I. "No, but you did." I endeavoured to persuade him to the contrary, when he said, "I know better, for I peeped through the key-hole." Confound the key-hole, I have hated these things ever since, and invariably look to see there are none, or that they are covered in any rooms which I may inhabit.

I tried again to deny it; but he still persisted, and I thought it best to say, that whatever might have happened for her sake, as well as his brother's, he should not talk to all the world about. At the time I could have almost sworn that no one saw me, for I had been cautious enough in every other respect: but this *key-hole* certainly escaped my notice. So it was with my shoes

when I first started on my journey. They were overlooked from their apparent insignificance; but they very nearly led to my detection.

I endeavoured to point out the folly of speaking so positively of such a circumstance. I did not succeed, for the lad told his brother, who greeted me the next day with a narration of the circumstance, though in very good part. I put as good a face on the thing as possible, and assured him it was only out of *fun*, and I had done so when Miss Ll— was not aware of it. Here the subject dropped.

There is a circumstance, now I think of it, which I have forgotten to relate. The second day after my arrival here, as I was standing at the window, I saw the Greek I had met at Abergavenny asking charity from a gentleman in the streets; when I immediately perceived that he was an impostor, and began to think of the great kindness of Mr. P——, which I solicited so uselessly for this scoundrel. I sent out for him, and he came in very hastily, expecting he was going to be relieved; but when he saw me, he looked very much astonished, and became agitated. "You d—d scoundrel," said I to the fellow: indeed I was in a great rage, and had a great mind to give him a thump of the head. After venting my anger (very foolishly by the bye) he told me he had changed his mind, and was going to Liverpool instead of London. A rascal, I could do

nothing with him, though I should like to have seen him at the cart's-tail. I said I would send to the magistrate about him, if he did not leave the town immediately, and the fellow directly he got out at the door took to his heels as hard as he could.

I lamented that Mr. P——'s philanthropy should have been so abused, and I fear many others are exposed to the same imposition, for I have met many of these fellows since about the country. Many of my readers, no doubt, have met with these people, and relieved them, unconscious of the deception: perhaps this information may be of some little use in putting them on their guard.

Once, when I was in Edinburgh, and walking out to an evening party, I was accosted by a person, who showed me a card on which was written. "Tell the bearer of any person who can "speak French or Italian." I eyed the man well, and asked him his particulars. He told me he was an Austrian, and had been shipwrecked, and could not speak a *word* of English. "There "is a friend of mine," said I, "at the Douglas "Hotel, who is an Austrian; go there." He pretended he could not pronounce English sufficiently to ask for the place, and asked me to write it down on *my* card. "Pronounce Douglas," said I: he tried, and called it Dickens. "Try again;" Douglas, he brought out with a perfect English accent. "You-are-a-great-scoundrel," said I,

"and-think-to-cheat-me." The fellow turned very red, and repeating this gentle observation, I continued my course greatly amused at the rogue's confusion.

The next day, February 20, I began to think of leaving Welch Pool, and packed up a number of "Spanish Exiles" to present to those persons I most esteemed and felt indebted to. In the course of the day I saw Mr. H——, and Dr. J——, who pressed me to stop till Monday.

On Sunday I went to church, and confessed that H——'s performance on the organ was the principal inducement. I dined with him and his family, and in the evening went to a tea *coterie* at Mrs. G——'s, a friend of J——'s. The daughters were very fond of music, and very desirous of hearing my guitar; but the day being sabbath they did not ask for it. Pleased with her manners, as well as her daughters, perhaps more on the latter account, I told her I could play sacred music, when she immediately said she would be happy to hear me. My guitar was sent for, and I played a divertimento by that exquisite composer Signor Verini, of Bentick Street; and in various parts I said, "this is the "'Trumpet of the Arch Angel.'" "How very "pretty," said the old lady, "like the horn, I de- "clare." "This is 'Lamentations;' and this is "the 'Rejoicings.'"

The younger folks were all upon the laugh;

but the old lady declared it was very excellent sacred music, and particularly descriptive. To this followed several Italian love songs, to which I gave pious interpretations, and was equally credited. Poor old lady!

I spent a tolerably pleasant evening, and then went to the Bear Inn. Young J——, on the way, presented me with a sovereign, adding, "that "Mrs. G—— begged my acceptance of it." I thought it was very generous on her part, and as he observed, "that she was very rich, and "could afford it," I accepted it.

H—— was in the bar enjoying a delightful *tête à tête* with his *dulcinea*. I merely made my bow to her, and retired again, thinking I would not give him additional reason for complaint.

The next morning I went to the Oak Inn for a horse, which the proprietor had offered to lend me to visit a flannel manufactory. "How can I "get over it," said I, to the landlady, when I had mounted the horse. "White-Hall's the watch-"word," said she, smilingly, in allusion to a nymph her son was paying his addresses to, and I started off.

Being well mounted, I soon arrived at this place, and giving the word, as directed, I was shown over the manufactory with a great deal of attention. I found it very interesting, and received the additional politeness of an invitation to dine with the proprietor. This I declined, and

returning him many thanks, mounted, and made for the town again; thinking it no bad thing to be under a lover's auspices.

Pleased with my ride, I thought I would prolong it, and pay a visit to a Welch farmer named J——. In going thither I was obliged to cross the Severn, which ran past one end of the town. I made for the nearest way, and took the river, thinking it was very shallow. About half way across I heard an old woman cry out to me, but not certain that she was calling to me I continued, when the old lady came running down to the river telling me for God's sake to stop, or I should get into a large hole and be drowned. She then directed me to the shallows and I went over.

Poor old woman, I returned her many thanks for her attention; and although I should not have been drowned, being able to swim, I should have most undoubtedly got a good cold ducking. I met the farmer on his road to town, and we returned together.

By some accident the subject of our respective weights was introduced, and the young farmer seemed to consider his own gentility considerably lessened by my saying, that I thought he was the heaviest; indeed so much so as to venture a *bet* of money, or any thing I liked. I never *bet*, and told him so; but I thought as far as a *glass of negus* went, I should not be breaking my good

old rule. It was offered and immediately accepted.

After putting up our horses, we were weighed. He proceeded first to the trial. "There," said he, laughingly, "I am only one hundred and forty-"five pounds." I was going to take off my cloak, but he opposed it as unfair, so mounted the scale he had just quitted, and remained suspended in the air.

The poor farmer looked very much astonished, and walking around the scales to see that all was fair, took off *five* pounds; and was more than ever surprised to find that I did not go down. He then removed another five, when a person standing by, and observing his confusion, gave way to a laugh, and said, "You had better take "off half a hundred weight;" another five came off, and then the opposite scale gave symptoms of rising. "Well," exclaimed, the poor fellow, "I never could have thought I was heavier than "you." Having regularly taken the starch out of him for his light weight and slim figure, we proceeded to the Oak Inn, and drank the negus on the strength of it.

"So you were nearly drowned," said the landlady to me, "in the large hole in the river." "Not at all," said I; "who told you so?" "An "old woman told me so," she replied, and said, "that she had stopped you." I smiled carelessly, and said, "that I had never intended to have crossed

"at that part;" for I thought she was thinking of the narrow escape of her horse as well as myself, and I should not stand a chance of getting it again. It was market-day, and as I proceeded through the town, every one pointed at me, and whispered about my nearly being drowned; so remarkably quick does a story fly through a country town.

I saw rather a pretty looking girl in the room when I returned home, and was soon informed by the landlady she was the sister of the light weighted farmer. I made myself known to her, and she politely invited me to their house. On her going away, the landlady came up to me, and in a whispering voice, said, Miss N—— presented her compliments to me, and should be happy to see me to tea; her *father* would not be there, as it was at her brother's house. This really was *exceedingly kind;* but as I was going away the next day, I thought it would be hazarding my *heart*, and might destroy my future peace.

Joking apart, little Miss N—— was indeed very pretty, and I ought to feel myself highly flattered. So *I do*, but as I was engaged at Dr. J——'s, it was impossible to go there, and left it to the good old lady to make the best apology she could. I went off to the Doctor's, where I had another very excellent dinner, and the evening was passed very agreeably in music.

A small parcel was brought in for me, from a Miss P——; it contained a very long piece of

smart silk ribband for my guitar, for which I sent back my *unbounded thanks*. I have this present still, in all its primitive freshness, and I never cast my eyes on it but the *charming* Miss P—— appears very vividly before me.

The doctor was so polite as to ask me to stop another day, but I was desirous of getting on to Dublin, and declined, with a suitable acknowledgment for the honour conferred; and at twelve I bade him adieu, as well as little J—— and H——, to all of whom I consider myself greatly indebted for their very kind attention to me during my stay.

I told my landlord that I purposed leaving on the following day. They expressed themselves very sorry, and we proceeded to settle the account; and as I had to start the next morning at a quarter past four, I took leave of them, shaking hands with the old lady. God bless the woman! I saw tears in her eyes, and was very much hurt at it, as it was what I never could have expected.

At four I was called up by the porter from the coach office; and as I was proceeding down stairs I met the landlord, who had dressed himself expressly to ask if he could be of any possible use to me. Poor fellow! I returned him many thanks, and if I could have afforded it, would have given him better proofs of my feeling towards him than mere words.

CHAPTER XVI.

The Vale of Llangollen — A Welch Harper — A Blind Beggar — Capel Voetas — Welch Mountains — Arrive at Bangor — A Bad Night — Welch and English Cleanliness — The Cantab — A Warm Dance — The Widow — A Welch Pupil — The Suspension Bridge — Sure-footed Woman — An Objection — A Mysterious Voice — A Friend arrested — The Mystery unravelled.

It was a dark, dreary morning, raining a little, and the most agreeable pastime I found was sleep, in which I indulged until I was awoke by the coachman, saying we had arrived at Oswestry. Here I breakfasted, and paying my fare outside to Bangor, about sixty miles or more, I mounted a four horse coach and was very soon again *en route*.

I was very much pleased with the vale of Llangollen, in Denbighshire, which, notwithstanding the unfavourable season, looked exceedingly beautiful. What must it be in the spring! A large aqueduct runs across the valley, adding very much to its natural beauty. About a mile further on,

there is another, and after winding insensibly round a mountain, by the beautifully constructed road, which makes the ascent so gradually, that one is scarcely conscious he is climbing such a tremendous height; we arrived at the town of Llangollen, where the rest of the passengers breakfasted.

There was a harper in the room, who played on his national (three chorded) harp various favourite Welch airs. I must confess I was not much pleased with his performance, for my ears had become too refined to listen to indifferent music on the harp, since my acquaintance with Mr. H——.

At nine we started again, and I found myself once more upon the London road, and I do not know that I ever travelled over a neater, smoother, or more durable one. At every hundred or two hundred yards, square recesses are left for piling the stones with which the repairs are made; and in many parts the country was flat, and the road so straight, that I could see for more than a mile or two in front and rear. Its great uniformity and neatness gave it a very elegant appearance. There was also a stone wall, about four feet high on each side, extending the whole way from Llangollen to Bangor. Finishing the third stage, a poor blind woman mounted the dicky of the coach, and groped her way to the front, with an old hat in her hand, begging charity, and not

without success: she got down again with the greatest ease.

I was induced to ask the coachman if there was no danger attending her going alone. He told me not the least, she was accustomed to the thing: her sole livelihood consisting in the little she might get from the passengers on the different coaches.

At every place we stopped at in Merionethshire, the coaches were always surrounded by persons with lamb's-wool gloves, and Welch wigs to sell. Just as we passed Capel Voetas, a small post town, the country became very mountainous and barren, but magnificent to a degree; and we really climbed over them without scarcely observing their steepness on account of the excellent arrangement and condition of the roads.

On the opposite side of these mountains I was much pleased with their appearance as we descended them. The sun was upon the decline, and just broke forth, casting a beautiful golden tint upon their summits, whilst every thing below was comparatively dark. There extreme altitude and sterility, and the gloom that prevailed on the shady side, gave them an appearance of most sublime grandeur: a perfect "*rudis indigestaque* "*moles.*" I was so much pleased with this part of the country, that if my funds would have enabled me, I would have stopped, solely to have had the gratification of exploring its beauties more attentively.

The whole of the country along the roadside was excessively barren, but the industrious inhabitants were doing all that art and perseverance could do to render it fit for cultivation; they were removing its very stony surface. Should these lands ever come into cultivation, the people will certainly deserve great praise. The land itself appears to consist of stones only, the earth merely filling the interstices. I am no farmer, but from the great expense that must be incurred by their removal, I should think the advantage would not repay them.

The women I have remarked never appear to be idle. On their way to market they will not even allow their hands to remain idle, and as they walk along they are either knitting stockings, or some other profitable work. I have also observed, in the internal arrangements of their houses, they are exceedingly clean, and are working from morning till night, for which their figures seem well adapted. They do not appear to indulge in much out-door amusement, or recreation of any sort; nor have I observed in them an anxiety to do so. They appear to be very well content with the pleasures which their own homes afford. They are generally very kind and hospitable, and honest to a degree.

Nearly the whole of the journey a small river runs by the road side, and in parts presents some very pretty and very curiously formed

waterfalls. I arrived at Bangor at five o'clock, and we put up at the Penryn Arms, where a very excellent dinner was ready. Being excessively hungry, though it did not very well accord with my purse, I dined there, and paying my three shillings, proceeded down the town to look for apartments: I obtained as I thought a very comfortable room, at a Mr. W. W——'s, and had my luggage accordingly brought to it from the hotel.

Being rather tired from my long journey, I went to bed very early, not to sleep, but to curse Mr. W. W———; for I found myself again tormented by those little red-coated animals. After suffering a good deal, I at last fell off to sleep amidst my persecutors; and the first thing I did the next morning was to get other apartments, acquainting the landlord of my reason for so doing. "Ferry well," said he, who was a regular Welchman, and spoke his own language better than English; "put you pring the pucks from "Encklant. The *Saasanachs* or *Encklis* are not "so klean as the Wellsch." I did not think it necessary to dispute this national virtue, or to prove to him that I hadn't brought "pucks "from Encklant;" so left him on very good terms, and was glad to find myself out of his quarters.

I now turned out with my guitar, and, knocking at the doors to ask permission to play my music, found myself engaged to play to several

ladies and some military men, from whom I received, with the assistance of some songs I sold them, ten shillings. From this I went to a Mr. H———. He came to the door, and shaking his head very pitifully, said, "I'm sorry "I've nothing to give you." After visiting several more places with no success, I returned home to dinner.

In the afternoon, the person who had kindly obtained for me the new apartments (which were very comfortable), called on me in company with Mr. C——, a young Cantab.

This place by the bye is much frequented by collegians during the vacations. He invited me to dine with him the following day at the Castle Inn, which invitation was accepted. My last night's rest being much disturbed, I was glad to go to bed, and happy to find all the beds were not like Mr. W. W———'s.

The next day I was out a great deal with my guitar, but met with very little success, save in a small chandler's shop, where I went in to get a biscuit; there I fell in with a very pretty Welch girl, and played my guitar to her as well as her old father; and before I left, received an invitation to come and see them again. They were truly Welch; indeed the major part of the people in the town are so, and the general language is the Welch, although they can nearly all talk English.

At four I went off to Mr. C——'s dinner, and was introduced to three or four persons, who were invited to meet me; the dinner was a very good one, and I should have enjoyed it more, had Mr. P—— (a very merry Cambridge man) of the party been a little more choice in his *figurative* language, as well as his *prose.*

In the evening we went down stairs to a large apartment, and the landlord's little daughters were invited in, and a quadrille proposed, the harper of the town being sent for. There were a great many more men and girls joined the party; but the room becoming very much heated, I did not much admire it, and went away.

On my return, I had a long confab with my landlady and her sisters. She seemed to have a world of woe. She fretted very much on account of the recent loss of her husband, and appeared to be suffering greatly in her health from anxiety.

Putting on a sacerdotal countenance, I administered to her all the consolation that my little piety would allow; but the poor thing shook her head in very evident distress, and said it was only in true religion she could now possibly look for any quiet. The manners of these people are extremely simple. Accustomed to lead such a constant domestic life, I can readily imagine that they feel more keenly the loss of a husband than the lower classes of English. I wished her a

good night and another husband, and then retired to rest.

The next day I perambulated the place a great deal, but with no better success than before, so I called on the pretty Welch girl; and her papa being out, I amused myself very agreeably for an hour and a half. I told her in Welch she was a pretty girl. This she did not understand, and telling it her in English, she put it into Welch, as well as various other "very pretty" expressions, which I found widely differed from the language in the South, in which I had become tolerably conversant; that is, as far as a few compliments went.

She took great pains to teach me Welch, and I, in return, some Spanish, particularly *besa-me vm.*, which she at last pronounced as well as myself, and I gave my little *pupil* the very thing she asked for. In affairs of this kind, I never travel by a circuitous road. I had had enough of that on the mountains; but, if foiled, I wait to be turned away.

I was really pleased with the girl, for her face was exceedingly pretty; but her principal fault was, and that no insignificant one, her voice was harsh, and she always spoke so dreadfully loud, which, of all things, annoys me in a woman: it is horrible enough in a man. Her eyes were black, expressive of softness, not brilliancy, which in my estimation is the most preferable. She had a

very pretty mouth, and, like the rest of her conntrywomen, her teeth were very good.

Her papa came in and gave me a hearty shake of the hand, and I addressed him with a " How " do you do?" in North Welch: he smiled and said, " I should larn Wellsch, and if I'd a leave off " those clothes, I should lookee as much a Wellsch-" man as any of 'em." After wishing him good bye, and his daughter a silent adieu, I returned to my lodgings.

In the evening I went again to see this pretty *Cambrian.* Her father was at home, and I was invited to tea: I was of course under some little restraint, but managed to pass the time very agreeably; and the daughter favoured me with some Welch ditties, in which the harshness of her voice was not so visible. My guitar was any thing but silent, and I very frequently played some of their national airs, which I perceived the father admired very much.

It was twelve before I left, and I had quite gained his good will and confidence; he pressed me strongly to come and see him whenever I could, which I *affected* to decline, and, giving his dear daughter a press of the hand, I wished them good night.

The next day I went with Mr. C—— to see the " Suspension Bridge," and was much gratified with its elegant and light appearance. As I returned to the town, I was much pleased with

the curious effect of the hills rising abruptly at the back of it. In consequence of there being no level ground that is free land, the inhabitants hang their linen out to dry on the rocks, up the hill, giving it the appearance of a "very large "washing day."

But what strikes the traveller as most curious is, how they can climb up to put them there; or how they can take them down without soiling them. As it puzzled me, I made the remark to the young collegian. "Welch women," said he, "are devilish well made, Sir; and, like the Welch "ponies, are very sure footed, and nearly as "hardy." I could not help smiling at his remark. They are very curious people, certainly; but I will not take it upon myself to deny or substantiate this statement, though as far as the legs go, they are certainly very much after the Buy-a-broom girl cut.

My evening I passed at Mr. P——'s, who was married to a very pretty woman, and spoke French tolerably well. Before I left I accepted their invitation for the next day to dinner, as well as to go to church with them.

The next day Mr. P—— called upon me, and said, that as the music at the cathedral was not so good in the morning as the afternoon, he would advise me not to go at that time. To this I assented, and was busily occupied until a quarter past one writing, when Mr. P—— came in and invited me

to take a walk with him. At two we returned to his house. After dinner he asked me if I would like to go to the cathedral. I said, yes. Mrs. P—— said she would like to accompany us. Mr. P——, in a whispering tone, told her not, on account of the great crowd there would be after us. "It is "very hard," said his lady, "a foreigner should "be treated in this way." "It is so, but there's "no helping it," was the reply.

Observing Mr. P——'s *particular* objection, I said I should prefer a walk, when he immediately *seized* his hat. After we had wandered round to the other side of the bay, and seen what little there was to be seen, we returned to his house, where I passed the evening very agreeably, and at half past eleven I made my bow.

After amusing myself writing for about a couple of hours, my attention was attracted by a person in the next room, exclaiming in a loud voice, "Just God! Why should I thus suffer for a fault "over which *I* had no control?" I thought I recognised the voice, and immediately went to a small lattice window, that communicated; and, to my astonishment, I beheld young A—— D—— of Brecon. He was seated at the table, with his eyes raised to Heaven, and his right hand, with a pen in it, elevated much above his head. His countenance betrayed great inward distress; his lips, which seemed to *drop* widely apart, gave him a most disconsolate appearance. In his left hand he

held a manuscript, which I immediately recognised as the very same I had heard him call "The Deserted Son."

Poor fellow! It pained me to the very heart to witness his sufferings. I knew it was something that must be painful to an extreme, or he would not have made such an exclamation. At first I was going to rush into his apartment, for I was overjoyed to see him, although it was at so unfortunate a period; but, knowing his extreme delicacy of feeling, I thought he would not like to be seen in such a situation. I therefore withheld myself the pleasure until the following morning.

He remained in this attitude for several moments, during which time I saw the under lip agitated very much. He continued reading, and then suddenly raising both hands up to Heaven, in an under-tone, said, "God forbid!"

He then paced the room awhile, and suddenly stopped before the glass—then seized the candle, and holding it to the mirror, exclaimed, "'Tis "*this colour* they call '*black!*' Villains! your "deeds are blacker by a thousand times. I'll be "no longer a recorder of them. 'Twill drive me "mad. There," said he, grasping the manuscript, and tearing it, threw it into the fire. "There, "you villains! May Hell's flames singe you like "——no," said he, stopping himself with difficulty, "you deserve it; but I'll—I'll forgive you, though "I can't help hating you:" and he immediately

left the room and went to bed. Poor creature! I was excessively hurt at all this, and had a great mind several times to break in upon him.

There was a kind of desperation about his latter words, as well as a wildness of expression, that I had never seen him assume; and it made me suspect his intellects were rather impaired. His sudden starts, his irregular language and soliloquy before the glass, where he called himself "black," seemed to indicate an aberration of mind, as his complexion was not even so dark as mine; and I was by no means astonished at the change, for I had perceived him much disposed, at Brecon, to be dispirited. Indeed, I had heard from several persons of his frequent melancholy.

I could not but think there was some very strong cause, though I felt in doubt as to the more certain one of imputing it to. Whether love, or some family disputes—I sincerely hoped not the former, for two more affectionate people I have never met with, or that better understood each other's dispositions.

I was engaged, I think for the next hour, devising some means to speak to him about it. I knew it would be a very delicate subject; but was resolved to try my best, and then went to bed.

It was very late before I was up the next morning, not having gone to bed till four o'clock, and before I proceeded to breakfast I made in-

quiries of the landlady if Mr. A—— D—— were up yet, and I could see him. The woman broke into a flood of tears. "Good God!" said I; "is "he ill? is he dead?" for I really did not know what to think. "Oh, no, Sir," said she, shaking her head, in a faint voice; "the officers are after "him for debt, and they'll take him to prison.

"I have known the dear young gintleman these "eighteen months, and never knowed, he owed a "half-penny; but I'm sure it isn't on his account, "for he always pays regularly." "I must go to "him," said I; "where is he?" "Oh, Sir, don't "go, Sir," said the poor woman, "he won't let "no person see him." I again made the inquiry; she told me in his bedroom, and in a few steps I was there too.

Poor lad! how glad he was to see me. Our hands clasped each other's with great warmth. "Pardon me, Sir," said I, "but I understand "you are in embarrassed circumstances." "Oh, "no," said he, "not at all; but I'll come and tell "you what it is." "I beg *your* pardon, Sir," said one of the officers, "but we can't let you go away "from us; it's more an we dare do." "Oh, very "well," he replied; "but really I don't exactly "understand the nature of your writ, as you call "it. I am not aware that I owe any body *five* "*pounds*, at least certain—— I've made arrange-"ments with."

"It's only for sixty pounds, Sir," said the

man, "Mess. —— and —— for H—— and Co." "H—— arrest me!" exclaimed D——, very much astonished; "why it is but a few "days ago since he asked me to give him an-"other order, and added, that he was perfectly "satisfied the account should remain until I "could arrange it according to our former agree-"ment." The officers both shook their heads, as *if* in compassion; and one said. "These tailors "do uncommon dirty tricks sometimes, it ain't "handsome, certainly; but the major part of our "writs is from tailors, or some such like." "Very "well," said D——, "I am ready to go with "you?" "You had better take some linen with "you, Sir; hadn't you?" said the officer.

I had been thinking, all this while, in what way I could be of any possible use. As far as my own funds were concerned, I knew I could not get any from my banker's, although there was plenty there, from circumstances which it is not necessary to mention here; but I resolved on sending to town for some, somewhere, and in the mean time write to his friends.

Before he left, he wrote a letter to a money-lender, in London, named Levy, a most notorious name for this kind of business, and well deserves the appellation; (as I believe no money ever comes from a Levy's hands, without a *le-vy* of 50 per cent.) He wrote to this man to come down to him, and we proceeded down stairs to

the coach for ——. At first I thought I would accompany him; but, on second consideration, I would not, as I should be losing time to write; I therefore shook hands fervently with him, and expressing my wish for his difficulties to be speedily over, I bade him adieu.

The carriage drove off, and I instantly returned to my room to write; but I had not a friend to write to. What was to bedone? My dilemma appeared inextricable, and I knew not possibly how I could get this money. I have already stated how I was circumstanced at my banker's, and where else to apply, I was really at a perfect loss. I thought, I would write to some of my Welch friends for assistance, whom I knew would do it. Mr. D— P—, E—, G—, &c.; but still I felt some reluctance, though I knew it could not be in a better cause. However, I proceeded to pen a letter for this purpose, and when I had nearly finished the thought struck me—necessity's the mother of invention—although I had *never* given a bill, I wrote "Accepted" across the back of a blank one, and sent it up to town, to my landlady to fill up for eighty pounds, at three months. To take it to my banker's, and instantly forward me the money.

In the mean time I sent one to Mr. M——, of Brecon, informing him of D——'s situation. After I had taken them to the post, I returned to speak to the landlady again, respecting my unfortunate

young friend, and met her coming out of his room, very much distressed.

She had in her hand the manuscript he threw into the fire, but it was only burnt in the corner. I asked her to give it to me, which she did; and I again asked her for additional information respecting D——. When, as before, she said she was sure there was some unfair dealing, for he never owed nobody any thing. "How is it I "didn't see him before," said I, "and we are in "the same house?" "'Cause, Sir," said the poor woman, "he has been very melancholy and ill "for the last week, and remained in his bed "ever since he came from Brecon, where he lived "with me for eighteen months; and he desired "me not to let any body know he was arrived. "Poor dear! I wish I'd a got the money, he "should have it. I don't know how Miss P—— "will take it, when she hears of it. I'm sure "she'll break her heart."

I now went to my breakfast, and examined the papers D—— had proposed burning. Joining the parts that were torn it read very easily; although there was a great deal burnt away, or singed so as not to be legible. It was very copious, and contained thirty-six sheets. I found it all related to complaints against his family, and accounts of his life generally. As I was scanning it over, I came to the passage which was the cause of my knowing he was in the next room. I

then read carefully the preceding two or three pages; where, poor fellow, I met some most melancholy accounts: they would have turned my head long ago. No wonder he should be seen so frequently desponding! No wonder he muttered to me at Brecon—rascals—scoundrels—villains—when I spoke of his family; and I recollect well, when I said to him the first day of our acquaintance, that he ought to bless himself for having such good parents as not to let him join the Spanish army—Poor fellow! I recollect *well* his very significant smile and shake of the head. I did not think, at the time, he could possibly have been suffering so much misery. In this biography of himself, he says in one part, which I give as an indication of his excessive mental anxiety,

"I have not a single friend in the world. No, "not one, I say; not one. I am poor, forlorn, "and deserted. A beggar's life is enviable to "mine. *He is* pitied—*I* am scoffed at. *He can* "receive charity—*I none*, yet equally require "it: so live worse than a beggar. *He*, as long "as he is not positively convicted of crime, is "thought *honest* and *called* so. *I*, from debts "which my father *ought* to have paid, cannot "even command the appellation of *honest* as well "as *he*:—Therefore a beggar's life is better than "mine." Poor fellow! Who could read this, and not feel distressed? *Whatever* may be the

result, I shall also insert that part which he was reading when he first attracted my notice.

"Here is Sir —— I—— D——, who is so largely "indebted to my father, and yet would care as "little about my starving, or being a shoe-black, as "he would eat his dinner. My father has lent him "money upon money, and took as security some "little land, worth only one-half of its value. At "my poor father's demise, he has left him several "thousand pounds, and yet this man cannot say "*one* good word for me, or do me the slightest "favour by way of return. What! Favour do I "say? He not only refuses to assist me, but he "insults me in my misfortunes, and all his family "likewise. Says I have no right even to my fa-"ther's name, because I was born out of wedlock. "This is an uncertainty. There has always been "a mystery over my birth. I have often heard "people, who came from the land of my birth, "say, they knew my father was privately married "to my mother in the Roman Catholic religion. "God bless the old man! At the mention of her "name he always wept, even twenty years after "her death. There was one tie which linked them "more indissolubly than any other; it was an "eternal affection. He watched over her death-bed "until her soul departed from this *miserable world*; "and, ever since, he was subject to the greatest "despondency. As a proof of this everlasting "love for his departed wife—I call her his wife,

" because I am told she was such from good au-
" thority, and I *know* my father called her so too—
" he was going to settle, immediately on her
" demise, *twenty thousand pounds* on each of his
" children; but, by the interference of his harpies
" of relations, was induced to change his resolu-
" tion, and promised to do so in his *will*. One of
" these creatures was the baronet. He, with the
" rest of the family, stifled the paternal feelings
" for *their* own, and his children's benefit. But
" what has resulted from his wicked deed? All
" his property is seized upon by his creditors;
" and *he*, from excessive debt, is obliged to fly to
" the Continent to avoid incarceration; and his
" children, following the example of the father,
" are obliged to do the same. This is the cha-
" racter of the man and his family, who insult
" me in my misfortunes, and look upon me as
" something beneath them.

" There is another of my father's brothers,
" who, poor wretch! for some gross *peculation*, is
" obliged to fly his country too. He would starve,
" were it not for the assistance of the baronet;
" and being dependent on his bounty, he is
" obliged to follow his principles.

" There is another brother, who, poor dolt!
" from a fear of offending the rest of the family,
" tells me he dare not show me any attention, or
" give me the advantage of his interest.

" There is Major Lamplight D—, his nephew,

" who, instead of following his profession like a " gentleman, and maintaining the warlike renown " of his family, must sell his commission—For " what? Why to show his inventive faculties " how to get a pudding baked for a halfpenny " instead of a penny. To try to rob the poor " bakers of their scanty earnings; and follows the " very *honourable calling* of a *common tradesman*, " with a large shop in one of the most public " streets in London, blazing forth at the windows " his cheap patent for baking puddings.

" This fellow keeps a mistress, a vulgar unlet- " tered creature, by whom he has a large family; " and, in the heart of London, lives secluded " from all society; his sole diversion consisting in " the grovelling calling I have already men- " tioned. 'Tis true, in vulgar minds, the object " of making money is so superlatively attractive " and pleasing, that all other considerations in its " pursuit are forgotten; and it little matters whe- " ther the medium be respectable, or disreputably " low, so they can *make* money, 'tis all one to " them. But *this* fellow, notwithstanding the " disreputable life he leads, and his many ille- " gitimate children, *he* denies my right to my " father's name, and holds me to be too inferior " to be on terms of acquaintance.

" Then, there's his brother—the Baron of " R——, who, I was going to say, won't know " me, but of this, I am not *quite* certain; but it is

" his duty to assist me. He got into ill favour
" with his government; and his more than *life*,
" his *honour*, was at stake in consequence of it.
" Who tried to conciliate the prince's favour, and
" get him a free pardon? Why, *my* father. This
" was not done without money. Oceans of it
" flew for this purpose. The object was partly
" obtained. After the dreadful sentence was
" given against the baron, to the very time of my
" father's demise, he was continually exerting his
" interest to obtain a recal, or an extenuation at
" least; and, with his former generosity, no limits
" were put on the use of his purse to effect this
" object. 'Twas *his* purse that started the baron
" in the world afresh; whereby he has gained all
" his present *immortal honours*. The baron's
" father, for many years, would have been in the
" most extreme penury, had not *my* father have
" settled upon him an annuity for life.

" Notwithstanding all these generous acts, the
" younger baron has known the great distress that
" *I* have been in, and never *once* offered to assist
" me: but *he* is nothing compared to his lady.
" She takes every opportunity to insult me. She
" is the daughter of a very poor woman, 'now
" 'no more,' kept by an elderly gentleman, by
" whom she had several children. When he was
" on his death-bed, he said, if she could get any
" body to marry her, he would settle a small in-
" dependency upon her, so as to provide for her

"children. In a few weeks, the unfortunate "creature met with one, and informed the gentle-"man. A marriage immediately ensued. Poor "woman! In her hurry to get married, she had, "alas! met with a drunken rascal, who soon ran "through the whole of her money. But *his* bro-"ther kindly took compassion on the children, "and brought them industriously up to work for "their livelihood in a small shop he had in "London.

"Constantly occupied in serving in the shop, "as well as from the poverty of their benevolent "uncle, the two girls had little opportunity of re-"ceiving the benefit of a good education. At the "age of fifteen and sixteen—'twas certainly a "very tender age, and therefore calls for mercy—"the baroness accepted the offer of a gentleman "to live with him as his mistress; and, in a few "months afterwards, the sister followed her ex-"ample. This one had the good fortune to be "very shortly married to this gentleman; when, "strange to say—but it seems to be in the family "—she immediately turned her back upon her "sister, on account of the incontinency of her life; "and finally would not speak to her at all.

"For some years, in this state, she lived with "the baron, and had several children. The "baron got on—obtained rank—and, desirous of "leaving some of his own progeny to inherit his "title, he married by the Scottish laws, whereby "he thought to legitimate his children. Strange

"woman! whose respectability had been a *mere* "*lottery*; and, because her *lot* happened to turn "a *prize*, she thinks all the stains of her former "life are wiped away; and she holds women of "her own stamp in the utmost contempt. Not-"withstanding her children were once illegiti-"mate, if they are not still so *now*—and the cause "of such; she insults me on my illegitimacy, "and seems to glory in so doing: as, whenever I "have met her in the same society, she is sure to "tell them of this misfortune. Talks of *my mother*, "as though she had been like her *own*; and further "endeavours to make insulting allusions to my "complexion, which, in her own language, she "calls 'black,' and, on this account, she adds, no "one likes to be seen with me—'Tis disreputable "to be illegitimate, and tells the world I myself "am ashamed of my own nature.

"But why mention these? Ask but myself, "who is my slandress? Then do I see the folly "of irritating myself with what *such a woman* "says. She is not singular in her insults "towards my complexion, though she is in the "grossness of them. But, isn't it so unac-"countably strange, that these people should so "hate me; point the finger of scorn at me "wherever I go; and try to rob me of 'my good "'name,' the only thing whereby I may hope to "get on in this world? Oh! my father! my "father! you little think of the pangs that are "aching in my breast. The conflicting thoughts

"that almost distract my brain. Full of your "generous nature, you little thought what vipers "of relations you have been so long surrounded "by; endeavouring to stifle every affectionate "paternal feeling, in order that they might the "more largely participate in your fortune. Oh, "my birth! my mother! Why did you not "tell me, whether you were or were not married? "Why this mystery? The suspense, the horrible "suspense of mystery, is worse than knowing "that I was the mere child of your lust. Why "leave me thus unable to defend myself? To be "pointed and scoffed at by all your villanous re-"latives? To know they call me 'black,' and all "the world, 'bastard?' Just God! why should I "thus suffer for a fault over which *I* had no con-"trol? Oh, my father! could you but look "down from the Heaven, in which I pray your "soul may now peaceably rest, and see your son "thus painfully afflicted by your conduct on "Earth; would not those eyes, which have shed "tears on my cheek, would they not weep now? "Oh, God! I call you to witness, I feel not "angry with my father. His faults shall all be "forgotten. I have too oft had opportunities of "seeing how much he loved me. Tears come "not from unkind fathers; and these has he shed "on me. Could I, therefore, think unkindly of "him? God forbid!"

I shall leave to my reader to judge whether or

not I am right in inserting this part of his own memoir. My extreme regard for this unfortunate young gentleman would alone have been sufficient to have caused me to take this step in his behalf. I hope it will be a slight consolation for the many injuries his family have done him; and, I trust, this *exposé* of the conduct of such villains will be a lesson to them, for the future, never to prejudice a parent *unnaturally* against his child, for their own selfish advantages; and then insult him in his *misery*. I trust it will also be a lesson against *tyrannical treatment* towards the unfortunate; and against the *injustice*, as well as *rashness*, to taunt another with a misfortune, under which we ourselves are positively suffering. It will be a lesson also against doing bad actions, under the idea, because at the time there does not appear any probability of their becoming known—a proof that bad deeds are sure to be known, some time or other, when the agents of them least expect it: they, therefore, feel more keenly punishment for their villany.

Poor D——, he showed a noble spirit to say he forgave them. "Good deeds," as he said, "always meet with their reward, sooner or later." I look upon the circumstance of my meeting with this autograph as a providential occurrence to render him justice, by exposing the villains who have so egregiously done him irreparable wrongs.

CHAPTER XVII.

A good relief to a Melancholy Scene — The Proposal — Bundling discussed — An Evening with Papa-in-law — I think of abandoning my Matrimonial Engagement — Hear of my Friend's Liberty — Determine to go to Dublin —Arrive at Holy Head — The Dublin Steam Boat — I get into the Wrong Berth — Pleasures of a Steerage Passenger — Arrive at Houth — The Custom House — My Picture taken — First Specimen of Irish Hospitality — An Irish Jaunting Car.

Poor D—— occupied my thoughts the whole of the day; and the more I looked over the rest of his melancholy autograph, the more I pitied him; and concluded, that he possessed a mind almost more than mortally strong to have borne his injuries with so much fortitude. But I felt an inexpressible pleasure in the hope that I might have the power to make him a slight return for his extreme generosity towards me; and, until I heard from London, should remain in the greatest anxiety: as, poor fellow, I am sure that not only the shame of lying in a prison, but its ordinary

filthiness, and low society, must be extremely disgusting to one of such refined habits as himself.

I should not have ventured out in the evening, had not old Mr. J——, the chandler, called on me, and after a little conversation induced me to accompany him to his house to see his pretty daughter. I don't know any thing which is more successful in recovering one's spirits than being in company with a pretty girl. I passed the evening perfectly as I wished, and the old man, I thought intentionally, left the room; so taking it for granted, I endeavoured to do justice to his civility; and before I left, found I was so far advanced in my tender assiduities, that the little Cambrian seemed to think that I was desperately in love, and would, the next time, make a proposal of some kind.

In this she was not mistaken, but I must wait till to-morrow, before I explain it. Giving a most *platonic* kiss on her pretty mouth, I wished her good night, and returned home, one of the happiest creatures in the world, quite forgetting that I had any thing to have rendered me uneasy; and, being excessively tired, I went immediately to bed.

The next day my very kind landlady came into my room, and spoke to me a long time about the possibility of D——'s release. She was very much distressed; but her mind became greatly relieved on my assuring her, that he would be out in two or three days.

I paid a visit to Mr. P—— and his pretty lady, and chatted away an hour very pleasantly with her. There were two or three gentlemen in the room discussing some question, to which I was led to listen with great attention. "God bless "me!" exclaimed Mrs. P——, "I declare, he "appears to understand every thing that's said;" and then asked me if I did. "I watch the ex-"pression of the face," I replied (for I was at first a little flurried at the detection), "and can "tolerably well guess the meaning by that."

In the evening, I went to Miss J——, she was not at home. Her father said she was at her aunt's, a short distance in the country, and asked me to accompany him there. I very willingly assented, and after we had gone some little distance *en route*, I revealed to my worthy friend the state of my *heart*, and assured him that all my future happiness was in his power, and that I only waited for the final ceremony. "Very well," said he, "I'a no objection; I like you very much, "and I think my M—— like you too." "I have "already told her of my love," said I, "and "have received from her an assurance of the "same for me; and I only, now, have to per-"form '*de bundle*.'" "Oh!" said old J——, "that is out of fashion now, but it was a good "custom of giving the young folks an opportu-"nity of seeing into each other's dispositions;

" but you must speak to my sister, who's very fond " of the good old customs." I was very glad to hear him speak so favourably, and I was now congratulating myself on a novelty which I almost thought was impracticable.

On arriving at his sister's house, which was a small neat little stone one, I met M—— in the hall, and in a true lover's style, before papa, we kissed each other; and I was then introduced by my worthy " father-in-law " to " aunt-y," and we shook hands. Papa now explained to her who I was, and the fact of my having *candidly* stated that my whole happiness was in his hands. After a few kind remarks made by him, and assented to by the other, he said, I had suggested the propriety of " bundling. " " Well D——," said the antiquated maid, " I admire the youth's pre- " caution, and although it ain't much practised now " a days, still that does not say it must not be: I " think they'd much better *bundle*."

It was agreed that a bundling match was to be, and M—— was instantly informed of it, to which she bowed her immediate consent as a matter of course. This point being arranged, we had some supper, *tout a fait a la Galloise*, and then some singing; first by the daughter, then papa gave us a Bacchanalian Welch song, and with very excellent spirit. Next followed mine, an extempore Spanish song; any words that came into my head, to the air of " Poor Mary Ann:" and the

good folks paid me many compliments on my *taste*, as it was like a Welch air. In this way the time passed very pleasantly till all the arrangements for the interesting affair, above alluded to, were completed, and then———— I really think I should not be doing little M—— justice by a narration of what followed; so, with my reader's permission, I will conclude the "bundling affair" here.

The next day I was occupied writing, and in the evening I visited the pretty creature of last night's adventure; but, to my great annoyance, her father told me she had not returned from her aunt's, and insisted on my passing the evening with him, as he had several friends who had called upon him. I endeavoured to excuse myself the pleasure, but he would hear of none; and so, like a dutiful "son-in-law," I stopped. I found him a very jolly fellow, and his party a very pleasant one; but my thoughts being on his pretty daughter, I did not much participate in the general amusement. My ears were frequently greeted by some whispering of the merry Cambrians to each other, about the *bridegroom*. Towards eleven they one and all took to their pipes, and I immediately took my hat, wishing my worthy "father-in law" and his friends good night.

On the following day, in the forenoon, I visited the P——s as well as Mr. C——, and we took a long walk about the country, with which I was

very much pleased. The high mountains, capt with snow, looked very magnificent. Had the season permitted it, I would have gone to the top of "Snowdon."

Need I say where I passed the evening? But I did not repeat the *bundling*: I began to grow conscientious, and thought it prudent to stop, free from having done the fair one any injury, save "une affaire du cœur," which I soon thought I could talk her out of, and so recommended her to think of Farmer —— again, who was extremely desirous of *bundling* too. It was late before I returned home.

The next morning I was very agreeably surprised by seeing a young Mr. P—— come into my room. He said he was the son of Mr. P——, of Brecon, and had come respecting a letter I had written to Mr. M——, and returned me many thanks in the name of M——, as well as his mother and sister. He informed me that D—— was now quite free, and added, that the arrest was made in consequence of a member of his family having told the tailor to issue it against him, or else he would lose his money. Poor fellow! he seemed always to be persecuted.

I was very glad to hear of his release, and begged this gentleman to remember me very kindly to him when he saw him, as well as to his own family. He promised me he would; and, offering me any money I wanted, he shook hands

with me, and got into his post coach to join A—— D—— at ———, who was going to return to Brecon immediately. I was exceedingly glad to find he had such good friends, notwithstanding his family. I perceived the kind landlady's countenance became very cheerful at this news.

I now prepared for Dublin, and after I had my luggage packed up, I proceeded to my various acquaintances to take leave of them. The P——s insisted on my dining with them before I left, and Mr. P—— got my passage by the coach free, to Holyhead, from the proprietor of the Penryn Arms.

I then went to take leave of the pretty M——. It was not without a few tears, in which I could not help joining, but gave her some satisfactory reasons for my departure; and knowing that I had only had an innocent bundling, I felt my conscience on this head, tolerably easy: so giving her one, and for the last, kiss, I wished her adieu.

At three o'clock I went to the coach. The day was cold, and I got inside, and by eight we arrived at Holyhead, putting up at a hotel close to the spot the steam packets start from.

Finding my funds very low, only twenty-three shillings, I inquired about the price of fares, and was told a guinea, and half a guinea. At twelve o'clock I went on board, carrying my luggage for economy, and again inquired of the captain the

fares for passage. A guinea, and five shillings. "Have you no half guinea fares?" "No," he replied. "Then I must take the five shilling "one." "Very well," said he, very negligently, "There is the deck for you;" and accordingly I was obliged to pace the deck.

I found it rather cold, so went down to the fire in the steam engine, thinking to myself I would take good care, for the future, not to be so hard driven for funds. We were waiting a full hour and a half for the mail, and at half past one, we started off.

After pacing the deck some time, I went into the sailors' berths, and proceeded to make a bench my bed for the night. I had not been here long, before I was interrupted by one of them, who told me very coolly to turn out, that the part I was in was *expressly* for sailors. I made some slight resistance, and asked the reason of his interference. He again answered as before, and finally gave symptoms of doing so, *vi et armis*, by putting his hand on my shoulder, when I thought it best to retire from this sanctuary. I then proceeded to seek refuge by the steam engine. Here I found the fireman as disagreeable as the sailor, so I, at last, managed to squeeze myself into a corner of the companion steps and fell asleep. In about an hour and a half I awoke, and found myself very cold: after walking about, and then warming myself by the fire, I returned to my corner, and had another slumber.

I again woke dreadfully cold, and was glad to fly to the large fire to warm my benumbed limbs, and again returned to my uncomfortable hole, where I slept till six o'clock.

The fireman now told me we were close by the land, and gave evident symptoms of being polite, by asking me to sit down, and *warm myself* by the fire. The sailors, also, were inclined the same way; but it was too late. I had borne all the difficulties, so cut these genii of the fore-castle, and came to the after part of the deck.

At seven o'clock we arrived at Houth Harbour, and a very fine one it is. Our passage was a calm one, and I could not but congratulate myself on having escaped paying that dreadful tribute to Neptune, which I so generally do.

Just as I was stepping ashore, the captain came up to me, saying, "You must go to the Custom "House first. Have you got a passport?" This question, at first, took me a little aback; but I replied, "I had left it in England, as I did not "think it necessary." "Well, then," said he, "I don't know how you'll get on." I now began to think I had got into an awkward affair, but determined to try my luck, so stepped on shore with my luggage, when an officer conducted me to the Custom House, which was close by.

"Where is your passport, Sir," said the master of the customs. "I told him I had not one, and "gave him the same reason I did to the captain."

" You should have had it," said he; " but never " mind, I will just take a description of you, that " will be sufficient."

After interrogating me, as to the place I was from, and profession I was of, &c., he took notes of my face. " Complexion, yellow." I could not help smiling, and remarked it was ordinarily considered brown. " Eyes, blue." Here I could not resist a laugh, and certainly thought his spectacles must be a *little* out of order. After taking all the necessary particulars, he begged me to sign my name, took a copy of the paper, and gave me one to present at the Custom House on my arrival in Dublin. During this investigation all the coaches on the stand had been occupied, and I was obliged to send for one *expressly*, which the master of the customs was so polite as to do.

Feeling rather faint after my voyage, I asked him to direct me to the nearest inn to get a little whiskey. He replied there was not one near, and begged me to walk into his house, until the vehicle came up. I had scarcely sat down, before he said to me, " I think, Sir, you said you " would like to take a glass of whiskey?" " I " thank you," I replied; " but I do not wish to " impose upon your good nature." " Not at all," said he; " if you will take a little, you are very " welcome." Accordingly a glass was filled, and I partook of it, and found it very excellent, but very strong.

Pleased with his hospitality, I offered to play to him my guitar, adding, that I could not do so as well as I wished from my fingers being very stiff. They expressed themselves (he and his lady) much pleased, and called in their three daughters to hear me. The evident difference of manners between them and the English women struck me forcibly. They were perfectly unreserved, and devoid of that *mauvaise honte*, which is, unfortunately, too prevalent amongst the fair creatures on the opposite shore.

Breakfast was laid for me, and a very good one. Whilst I was over it, I said to my hostess, "You see I don't stand on ceremony." "Ah! "that's right," said the eldest daughter, "for we'd "rather have any *money* here than *ceremony*." I thought this a very fair commencement of their hospitality and wit.

The breakfast being finished, the hospitable Irishman said to me, "The car is waiting for you, "Sir, and although I would like you to stop "longer, I will not ask it, as the driver will de- "mand more money; but I hope we shall have "the pleasure of seeing you again shortly, when "you are disengaged." I returned him many thanks, and presenting him with a "Spanish Exile," wished them all "good-bye," and mounted the little car and drove away.

It was a curious little vehicle, with two seats on each side, so that the passengers turn their

backs on each other. This I afterwards found was called a "jaunting car," and as much in use in Dublin as the cabriolets in London. The driver amused me much with his remarks on O'Connell and emancipation, which he would obtain by "Plain, honest, spaking, and no fight-"ing, or quarrelling, at all, at all."

I could not help noticing the wretched and ragged state of the poor. Indeed, I never saw a *genuine tatterdemalion* before I went to Ireland; and the idea struck me as very curious *how* they could keep their rags together. I was much pleased with the fine large bay of Dublin as I passed it.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Dublin — Commence Business — Followed by a Mob — Invited to dine with Captain H—— Arrival of the Viceroy—Lord and Lady G—— I am engaged as a Master—Disappointments— Lord N——'s A—— A Device—It does not succeed—A Letter of Introduction—Lady M——.

I ARRIVED in Dublin about the 4th of March, and drove to the post office, where I got down; and paying five shillings to the driver, proceeded to make enquiries for a Mr. U——, to whom I had a letter of introduction. A gentleman of this establishment, observing me surrounded by an immense mob, politely conducted me to Mr. U—'s department, and observed, that he felt it his duty to do so, as I was a foreigner.

Requesting permission to leave my luggage here, • I proceeded to Gresham's Hotel, with Mr. B——'s card of Bangor; and asked him, if he knew of any comfortable apartments to let, giving him an idea of the sort I required. He very politely went out in search of one, and soon obtained for me a very comfortable room, at the

Miss H——s', Great Britain Street. I had also a letter of introduction to a Dr. H——, and went to his house. He was not at home, so I left it, and returned to my lodgings.

The next morning I was very ill with rheumatism, arising, no doubt, from the horrid "deck "passage." I paid a visit to G———, and by way of a return for his civility, I played my guitar to him.

As I was walking down a very small street, an Irishman cried out, "Arrah! look at the Chinese "juggler." This unfortunate remark attracted the notice of a great many more, and by the time I had arrived in Sackville Street, there were full two hundred people around me. As I continued up the street, their numbers seemed to increase very rapidly. Indeed so great was the mob, that several carriages were stopped by them. I thought I would give the rebels a chace; and, after crossing this very wide street twice, I deliberately led them round Nelson's Pillar, at which some swore, and some laughed.

By the time I arrived at my lodgings, my good landladies were so dreadfully alarmed at this immense crowd, that they immediately sent for the police; and, until they came, the mob gave no signs of dispersing.

The next morning the Duke of Northumberland was to make his public *entrée* into Dublin. Through the kindness of Mrs. G—— I obtained

a place at the drawing room window of the Royal Hotel, College Green.

As I was standing here, a Captain H—— entered into conversation with me, spoke a great deal about Spain, and finally gave me an invitation to dine with him the following day. I was much amused with the curious remarks the crowd made respecting myself.

At three o'clock, the drums beat to announce the Viceroy's approach, and a very splendid equipage made its appearance, in which his Excellency and Lady were seated. I did not observe any thing more of interest, the *cortége* being very small, and I heard a great many people express sentiments to this effect: they had not quite forgotten the splendid *entrée* of the favourite "Anglesea." In the evening I had an introduction to my three landladies, whom I found exceedingly agreeable, and at eight I took coffee with Mr. U——.

The next day I was principally occupied writing my adventures, and in the evening dined with Captain H——, at Holmes's Hotel. Finding my complaint very painful, I left early, and following the advice of my friend Mr. K—— I procured an embrocation, and in front of a large fire, before I went to bed, made plentiful use of it; and the next morning found myself perfectly recovered.

The following day (Sunday) I breakfasted with

the Miss H———s, and accompanied them to the metropolitan catholic church of the town. At first I found myself a little at a loss with regard to the ceremonies, so I followed the "crossing" movements of my fair companions.

The next day, according to invitation, I visited Mrs. W———, C—— of Bangor's friend, with my guitar, but not a "sou" did they give me; and I was now reduced to three shillings and six pence. The first house I came to, after this, I was desired to walk in and play. I worked hard for a quarter of an hour. A young lady gave me a *sixpence*, and recommended me to go to Lady G———. I thought her certainly *very* liberal, but resolved on trying her friend.

I was soon ushered into the drawing room, and a close enquiry was made as to who the young lady could possibly be who recommended me. Not knowing her name, I could not tell. Lord and Lady G——— were exceedingly polite to me, and after I had played a little, their daughters honoured me with their performance on the guitar, which was considerably better than my own, though I was asked to teach them. Of this pleasure I endeavoured to excuse myself, but unsuccessfully, as they said that they would make every allowance for my deficiencies in the theory of music.

As I was going away, they expressed themselves *infinitely pleased*, and made many kind

offers to assist me, for which I was very grateful; but if they had given me some *money* I should have been a great deal more so: and cursing my ill stars made my bow and retired.

Punctual to my appointment, I went to Lady G——'s the next day to give her daughter a lesson, and found her one of the aptest scholars I had ever met with. She played off the music I gave her immediately, and I could not help thinking that she would soon exhaust my store of music. The next morning I received a polite invitation to breakfast from a gentleman named M——, who lived in the second floor of the house I lodged in. At twelve o'clock I went to Mrs. B——, a lady on whom I had called the previous day, and was ushered into the drawing room. I told her I did not teach, merely played to persons in the morning or evening. She said she was very sorry I did not teach, as her daughter should learn. A short pause ensued, when I volunteered my present services, which were immediately accepted, and I proceeded to play at a famous rate. When I had finished, I received a great many thanks and compliments, with two letters to her friends, but no *money*.

Confound this, said I to myself, as I went away; I must hit upon a better system of getting money, as asking for it annoyed me beyond every thing. Whilst I could roam about, play here, there, or any where that might turn up, and re-

ceive a voluntary return, well and good, the undertaking was interesting; but to be now obliged to ask for the money, and talk of charges, &c., I could not at all understand or reconcile.

A change must take place some how, thought I, for I was now getting "poor indeed." I called on Lady M——, she was not at home, and I left the letter of introduction, and my address with it. I tried several houses on the road back, but unsuccessfully.

In Mountjoy Square, I met a Miss C——, and she told me to go to Lord N——, as there were several young ladies, who wished to hear me. Thither I went, and was shown into the drawing room, and met a Miss M——, old enough I should think to have been my grandmother which was the only sign of "young "ladies," I could discover. She, like the rest, made enquiries as to my prices, &c., &c., and then begged me to sit down on the sofa *beside her*. I could not help smiling at her polite request, and sat down, though not *quite close* beside her, and proceeded to exercise my vocal and instrumental powers.

She expressed herself very much pleased, and I should really think she was so, if I may judge from her numerous smiles on the occasion. This "young lady" now requested me to come on Saturday to see her again, and good morning'd me out. Perceiving it was the general fashion,

not to pay *ready money*, I resolved on trying some other plan.

I therefore wrote on a piece of paper, who I was, the cause of my emigration, and stated I played the guitar at seven shillings an hour; and purposed presenting this to the various people who might happen to employ me. At seven o'clock I went, according to invitation, to a Mrs. W——, and passed the evening there with my guitar. Met Dr. H——, who apologized for not having *returned* my visit, so that again was I to be tormented with protestations, and returned home as poor as I went.

The next morning, I proceeded to a Mrs. G—, and Lady M——'s, and was disappointed at both in getting any money, so that being reduced to a bare *four-pence*, I was obliged to sing for my dinner; and the only chance I had left was a letter of recommendation to a Mrs. Colonel G———, whom I had originally intended not to visit on account of the great distance. However, I was now glad to go anywhere, and proceeded forthwith to her house. On my arrival, to my great annoyance, she was not at home; but after waiting a short time she returned, and I was shown into the parlour. After playing for some time, she thanked me very politely, complimented me on my singing, and gave me a letter to a *friend of hers;* but no money, as usual.

Not exactly liking to be minus a dinner, I

made her understand that I did not merely play for "love and glory," and that, as the music fellows say, I required the advantage of a *little rosin*. "Oh! certainly," said she; "what can I "offer you?" "Whatever you like," I replied; and observing she did not know what sum to offer, I added, "five shillings;" and she immediately gave me the money, again expressing herself pleased with my music, and hoped to have the pleasure of seeing me another time. *Now*, I could well laugh at the idea of *no dinner;* but a few minutes before it was *no joke.*

In the evening I went to Lady C——'s, to whom I had a letter of recommendation, and was invited to stop there all the evening. I played a great deal to them; an invalid daughter honoured me by attempting to take my likeness whilst playing, and I had a letter to her sister Lady M——, whom I had already visited. Notwithstanding my care to deliver the paper of terms and see it read, I found as usual that no money was forthcoming. I bowed, and went away; but resolved on giving all my friends, who were so backward in this respect, a gentle hint another time.

When I returned home, as the note was not sealed, I thought it would be no great sin to take a Paul Pry peep into it; and had the gratification of reading the following very amiable introduction:—

"DEAR S———;

"We have had the pleasure of "having the bearer's company all this evening. "He plays and sings delightfully; and, *pour le* "*reste, vous pouvez en juger.* You may be sure "E——— (who is better) has done his picture. "He wishes for the honour of your acquaintance "and patronage. M——— will be delighted "with his playing, and you with his *white* "*teeth.*

"——— C———."

The next day I went with this very *sweet* billet to Lady M———. By the bye, I found all the people in Dublin knights and ladies. I was desired to proceed to the "étude," where she received me with great politeness; I presented to her the letter of Lady C———. Begging me to be seated, she read the letter, and enquired into the cause of my coming to England. "It is "on account of the last revolution in Spain," I replied; "and, by the 'fortune of war,' I am now "obliged to play my guitar for my support." "Ah!" said she, "it's a terrible thing; but I, "for having expressed my sentiments too freely, "am '*proscript;*' but what do you purpose doing "now?" "Play my guitar," I replied, "to "amuse those, who may feel disposed to listen "to me, for which I charge a *guinea* a night, or "seven shillings an hour." Her ladyship strongly

recommended me to teach, which I declined, saying I was incapable.

I asked if she would like me to sing to her. She thanked me, and accordingly I struck up. A short time after, I observed to her, that Lady C—— told me she was a great authoress. "A "*little*," she replied; "and here are some of my "works;" directing my attention to her library. "It is for *these two* that I am proscript, and your "king of Spain, who was particularly incensed "against me, has got me on his index as an out- "law. You have had great heroines in Spain, "who have on occasions fought most nobly; and "*I*, with my pen. These works are of course "prohibited; and the Duke of A—— assured "me, that the difficulty of getting my —— "was so great, that it cost him forty thousand "francs to obtain it contraband."

To this I bowed *respectfully*; and instantly thought of the long file of *romances* I had just seen in her book shelf. I asked her, if she continued to write as usual. "Yes," she replied, "six hours in the morning at one sitting, till two "o'clock; during which time I am always denied "to visitors." "Does it agree with your health, "Madame?" I asked. She replied, it did not, and at the expiration of the six hours, she always felt exhausted. I clearly perceived some little art was had recourse to, to conceal the ravages of study and years; and a fine roseate hue,

in tolerable profusion, suffused her cheeks. Her figure, I remarked, was short, and what made it shorter was, that she stooped greatly; arising I have no doubt from her too close application to study. Her face was thin, and contained a very marked expression. The *hair* was dressed romantically in crop. Her manners exceedingly affable, but firm.

Some ladies coming in, I was asked to play again. I did so, of course, and was promised, if I called on the following day, some letters of recommendation. I perceived that this was the general style of recompense *I was* to expect in Dublin for *time and trouble;* so wished the "proscript lady" good morning. I went into W——'s music shop, where a young lady asked me to play to her. I did so, and she immediately remarked, that perhaps Madame C—— would like to hear me. "Are you acquainted with her," I asked. "Oh! yes," was the reply, "she lives "in this house." "I should very much like the "honour of an introduction to her." "I will first "speak to her," she said, and left the room for this purpose, and shortly returned, saying, Madame C—— would like to see me.

CHAPTER XIX.

I am introduced to Madame C—— — Her Reception and Generosity — Lord N——'s — I am constrained to ask for Remuneration — Lady M—— again — The Theatre — An unexpected Invitation — The Guard Room — A Mistake — Guard turn out — I dine at the Mess of the 53d — An old Acquaintance — Employed at her House — Betsy Teim-pog.

As I entered the drawing room, Madame C—— politely said in Spanish, "Buenos dias, Señor, "et habillé comme un Espagnol." "A los pies de "vm.," I replied, "Señora;" and added, in French, an apology for my intrusion. "I am most happy "to see you," she politely replied, and added, much to my amusement I must confess; "You "do not require your dress to say that you are a "Spaniard. You are one 'tout a fait;' your "very look and deportment is Spanish. Your's "is the country for eyes; none can come up to "the Spanish ladies for dark eyes. My son has "a little of that characterestic, do you see?" The son was standing by, and a very good looking fellow too, and in my opinion had considerable

more claim to the Spanish eye than I had. "My "origin," she continued, "is Spanish. I am "from Catalonia, which gives me the name of "C——." "I assure you Madame," said I, with all the gravity of a Spaniard, "that I feel "exceedingly proud at such flattering remarks "upon *my country*." "Eh bien, Monsieur, if it "be not too much trouble, will you favour us "with a song?" "With the greatest pleasure," I replied; "but I cannot help thinking it is mak-"ing a burlesque of singing, for me to do so "before you."

"Not at all, not at all," said she, good naturedly; "I am very fond of Spanish music." I now sang a Spanish ballad, which she was so polite as to say she was pleased with. I then played her the seguidilla, which she spoke of in warmer terms, and favoured me with a bolero, accompanying herself on the pianoforte; I need not say it was very beautiful.

All her friends having departed, I was going to make my exit, when Madame C—— and her son both asked me, if they could be of any possible use to me; adding, that they sympathized very much with persons so unfortunately circumstanced. "I thank you sincerly," I replied. "My present "occupation consists in attending *soirées*, &c., in "which I have always plenty to do." In this respect they offered to assist me as much as laid in their power. Madame C—— whispered some-

thing to her son, who came up to me, whilst the lady affected inattention, and asked me if he could be of any pecuniary assistance to me. "I "feel infinitely obliged to you," said I, "but I do "not stand in need of it." "Pray don't say so, "if you require it, because you are very wel- "come." I again thanked him, and made my bow to Madame C——, who politely said she was exceedingly happy of my acquaintance. Her son accompanied me to the door, and shaking hands with me, endeavoured to enclose a number of sovereigns in mine.

"My dear Sir," said I, "I assure you I do "*not* require any money." "Now pray do me the "favour to accept it," he repeated. I again assured him to the same effect. "Well then," said he, rather briefly, as if much disappointed at my not taking his offer, "you can do as you like; "but whenever you are disposed to pay us a visit, "we shall be most happy to see you."

My feelings were very much excited at this extreme generosity of Madame C—— and her son, and I could not help thinking of the extraordinary contrast between their generous souls and those ladies to whom I had already played my guitar, in Dublin; for *they* must have known my condition, and were too mean to offer me the most insignificant reward.

The next morning I called on Mr. A——, or rather his daughter. I became acquainted with

him accidentally, and finding he had some daughters, I visited him. There was only one of them at home; she begged me to play my guitar, observing, that her sister had spoken very much about it. I did so, and it was finally agreed that I was to give her some *instruction*. The rest of her sisters came into the room, and after playing to them, and chatting a little, I wished her a good day, agreeing to come on Tuesday evening.

I now proceeded to Lord N——, where it may be recollected I had an engagement with the antiquated Miss M——. There were several persons here to meet me, who placed themselves in a row, and me on the sofa, immediately opposite. "Give us 'La pia,' Señor," said Lord G——; "that's the best of all." As I was singing this Miss M——'s nodding her head to the air, her continual smiles, and the recollection of the sofa affair, caused me to laugh. "He always smiles," said Lord G——, "when he sings that song; "there's something in it." "Oh! how interesting "he looks," said Miss M——; "he looks just "like the *waxen images* we see. You must give "us one more song, and then your *hour* will be "*up*." I did so, and received the seven shillings.

At Lady M——'s I found two letters of introduction were left out for me. I went with one of them to lady C——'s, where I played some time; she told me not to give myself any more *trouble*, and asked my address that she might *send* for me,

when she *wanted* me. I had by this time been too often deceived to be satisfied with this, so said, "Madame, will you permit me to observe, "that it is by playing in this manner I get my "*livelihood;* and if you think I merit it, I should "be much obliged to you for a recompense. I "shall be content with five shillings." "Oh!" said she, as if surprised, then looked at the letter, and called the servant, of whom she got some money, and presented me with *four!* but in so ungracious a manner as evidently to prove she did not much admire parting with it.

I pocketed the affront, and proceeded with the other letter to a Mrs. G——, Fitzwilliam Square; there I had to play an immense time, during which Mrs. G—— was all smiles; but finding she was like the rest, I treated her as I did lady C——. "Oh!" said she, "Lady M—— says "in her note that you play the *first time* for "nothing, or else I certainly should not have "given you the trouble." I rose, wished this generous lady good day, and called on Lady M—— to speak to her about this treatment. She was not at home, and I resolved on writing to her, for I was excessively disgusted at the meanness I had so universally met with, and determined not to let one of them escape without giving publicity to their conduct.

Had I not already been acquainted with the national character, I should have been induced

to have imputed it to a national defect: but to say the very least—what, as a real Emigrant in distress, should I have been justly led to think of the Irish, and particularly when compared to the magnanimous voluntary generosity of Madame C——— and her son?

Accordingly I wrote, explaining circumstances, to Lady M———, of my not having been paid for the trouble of playing; and observed, that as it was a mistake, not arising from any misrepresentation of mine, I hoped she would transmit me the remuneration I had lost. I sent this letter by a servant, and after dinner dressed for the theatre: Mr. V—— having kindly given me an order to the boxes.

C—— was in excellent voice, and sang "Aria al trionfo" splendidly. As I was leaving the theatre a young gentleman came up to me, and asked me to give him my card, as the officers of his regiment wished me to dine with them on Tuesday. Thinking it was a joke, I replied, I had not the honour of his acquaintance. "No, "no," said he, "I know that;" and again repeated his request. I gave him my address, and in return received his—Lieutenant C——, 53d regiment.

The following day I received a very polite note from this gentleman, in French and English, inviting me, in the name of the rest of the officers, to dine with them on Tuesday next, and visit him

this evening at the guard room at the castle. I was desirous of availing myself of their invitation, but felt it my duty to make known to them my circumstances; and wrote to say, that I felt much honoured, but from my *present circumstances*, I *feared* I should be obliged to deny myself the honour, and begged leave to observe, that I had *once* been an officer, but, by the fortune of war, I was now a very *humble musician*; and, as I could not present myself in that elegant attire that their rank called for, I should consider it was not doing them justice to accept their very polite invitation; but concluded by saying I would sup with Lieutenant C———.

In the afternoon I paid a visit to Madame C———, she had just returned from a charity sermon, and the subject of religion came on the *tapis*. "I like," said she, "to pay a proper respect to "religion, and visit my church to return thanks "to the '*bon Dieu*,' for his blessings upon me, as "I consider myself highly favoured by his infinite "goodness."

At half-past eight, I went to the guard room, where Lieutenant C——— politely received me with open hands, and introduced me to the rest of the officers, about five in number, as well as two or three of the duke's household. I was helped to some very good Bourdeaux, one of the wines on the table; and then C——— apologized for the unceremonious manner in which he had

accosted me on the preceding evening. I told him, I felt flattered by it. During our conversation, I observed a titter pass round the room, and I was doubtful whether it was at C——'s drollery, or my having accepted their invitation, which might have been given for the sake of having some fun with me. A general conversation ensued, in which they, one and all, occasionally spoke to me of Ireland, the climate, &c.; and at last I was requested for my opinion of the *filles de*——. "I really have not had time to judge; "for when I enter a fresh town, I am never too "hasty in these matters, and sometimes a little "delay throws one in the way of better luck." "I "suppose, Monsieur," said one, "you are looking "out for a Duchess." I thought this a fair opportunity of letting them know that a vulgar joke would not *pass* on *me*; and I replied, in a firm tone, "You are ridiculing me, Sir, I perceive." "Oh, "no, Sir!" was the reply, which I thought fit to take as satisfactory, and a long discussion followed on the beauties of the green isle. "I hope "you will dine with us on Tuesday, Señor," said Lieutenant C——. "Indeed," said I, "I should "feel much pleasure, but this is the only way I "can present myself, and I should think it was "not doing you sufficient justice to come so. I "was once an officer, but I am now a very humble musician." "Oh! d—n it," said C——, "that's nonsense, we shall be very happy to see

"you." "No! that's nothing," said another. "He's certainly right," said a little prim looking lieutenant; "he can't come in that way." Here followed a slight pause, and they looked at each other to decide. I now said to them—for I was very anxious to go, but resolved not to alter my dress in the slightest degree, in order to try how far the circumstances of my "emigration" would recommend me in my present unfavourable exterior—

"Gentlemen, it is for you to decide if I am to "have the honour of dining with you or not. I "know well, that military men preserve great "etiquette at the mess table, and if you do not "invite me, I shall by no means take it amiss; "but if, gentlemen, you invite me from a consi-"deration of what I *was*, not what I *am*, it's "another thing. This is the only way I am "enabled to present myself at your table." This seemed to come so home to them, that they immediately exclaimed, "Certainly, certainly. We "shall all be most happy to see you." "Well, "gentlemen," I added (before the effect of my little oration had passed off), "I will on these "conditions accept the honour of your invitation;" and I was particularly amused at my successful speech.

Most unfortunately, after this: I say most unfortunately, as I found C—— a very gentlemanly nice fellow—in the course of our hilarity, and as

he was plying me very plentifully with wine, I made use of a simile to beg him to desist. This was wrongly interpreted, and C—— fancied that I had not made the most amicable allusion to himself; and the consequence was, that a very awkward expression fell from his lips in French, more I could clearly perceive in indication of his own annoyance than as if addressed to me; and though I knew well the cause of the mistake, I made it my duty to ask him for an explanation, and added, "That I was not conscious that I had "given him any reason for making use of such "an expression." One of the company explained to him the nature of the mistake, which he said arose from a wrong interpretation of the French, and poor C——, I perceived, was greatly annoyed at having made a *rude remark;* and, as far as language could avail, he expressed his great regret at this unfortunate circumstance. "D—n it," said he, in English, to his brother officers, "I'd give him satisfaction any way, rather "than he should think I meant to insult him. I "would not invite a fellow to see me, and then "be rude to him: I'd rather lose my head "first;"—and he appealed to another officer, who spoke French better than he did, to explain his sentiments more clearly to me.

This was done, and I assured C—— of *my* great regret at having been so hasty, and that I fully appreciated his gentlemanly sentiments. I

really was excessively annoyed that I had been the cause of any misunderstanding. It was entirely my fault, I knew; but I really did not know better how to act than I had done. At eleven o'clock we proceeded to supper. We had a long discussion on the corporeal punishment of soldiers. After supper the dice box was paraded, and whilst they were all occupied with this amusement, the order of "guard turn out," greeted their ears. Away flew the box, and on went their swords with all possible speed, except friend C——'s; his was missing, so snatching up the poker in lieu of it, he ran down to his post. I saw him from the window, presenting "fire arms." The field officer having something the matter with his horse's foot did not examine the men, and C——'s poker escaped notice.

I was introduced to Colonel G——, the visiting officer, who came up to the guard room for a few minutes: and after he had retired I was told that he was the colonel of the Scotch Greys at the battle of Waterloo. As it was getting very late, I proceeded to take my *congé*. They all shook hands with me very kindly, and asked for my address. As I took my leave of an officer of the 7th, he said to me, "Well, Señor; I suppose your mistress is anxiously waiting for you." "I thank you for the compliment," said I; "but it is you, gentlemen, who succeed best with the ladies: you have so much gold on your backs.'

"God! it's all on our backs, Sir," said he, very good humouredly; "for we have none in our "pockets." I could not help laughing at this remark, and then wished them all good night.

On the day appointed, at seven o'clock, I went to dine with the 54th, and thinking their mess was held at the Castle, I directed my steps thither, and was a long time before I found out my error. It was eight o'clock before I arrived at their barracks. Dinner was of course cleared away, and apologizing for my delay, I explained the reason. There were from twenty to thirty officers, and, whilst my dinner was preparing, I took claret with some of them. By way of preliminary, I thought it necessary to say, "Gentle-"men, I am no ornament to your table, but I "hope you will excuse the manner in which I "present myself." "Quite the contrary," was the polite reply; we consider you are. The dinner being now ready, it was laid on the same table, an act of politeness displayed to me, particularly as a foreigner; on ordinary occasions, if any one is late, a side table is prepared.

C—— was polite enough to sit down with me. After some excellent soup came fish, and I do not know how many other things. There was no lack of champagne, which C—— very generously ordered on my account. The dinner being cleared away, the claret passed round very

freely. There being a ball at the Castle, several of the officers left, and Captain W——, who was one of them, invited me to dine on Friday next. Many of these gentlemen had seen a great deal of the Peninsular war, and spoke Spanish very well; and finding they did not enter too much into detail respecting Spain, &c., I passed the evening very pleasantly, and at about twelve took my leave.

The next day I went out with my guitar, but having found in the various houses that I called at, that my "written paper" was of no avail, I was obliged to hit upon another method; so called at the various pastrycooks to inquire about the different evening parties. At one, I heard of Mrs. C——, from Brighton, "whose pies had a narrow escape of a tumble," and I immediately went there, sent up my paper, and was desired to come at nine o'clock.

As I was going away a girl came running after me, crying, "Stop! stop! Oh, Señor, how do "you do," and held out her hand. I accepted the offer, but really did not remember the nymph, who was thus honouring me. She perceived this, and exclaimed, "What! don't you recollect Betsy "at Brighton." "Oh, Betsy, Teim-pog," said I, recollecting her, and these Irish words, which she taught me at the time, meaning "kiss me." "No, no, you musn't do that," said she, as I was

going to teim-pog her; "but how have you been—"poor John's gone, and Fanny with him. Why, if "it had not been for me, you would have gone "away." "Now I must teim-pog you for that," said I, and practised my lesson. "Upon my word, "Señor, you're getting reude," and she pushed me gently away. "Well, my dear Betsy, I must "now wish you good bye till nine o'clock," and shaking her fists went away.

I had broken one of my silver strings and a guitar screw, but had not a shilling to replace them, so I proceeded to W——'s, and supplied this deficiency, telling them that I had left my purse at home, (so I had but with nothing in it): being known, I was very civilly requested to say nothing about it.

At nine I went to Mrs. C——, who was glad to see me, and put seven shillings and sixpence into my hand. I thought this very strange; but I soon perceived amongst the early visitors Lady C——, who had employed me for a whole evening without remuneration, and I imputed to her this circumstance, for she was well aware that my charges were a guinea for the night; and the recollection of her kind offer to recommend me to parties flashed across my mind, with a full conviction that if I depended on such promises, I should often go to bed hungry.

Having a horrid cold, I left early, and met Betsy on the stairs, who invited me down to their

subterranean retreat; but I excused myself, and returned home to put my feet in hot water and sup on hot gruel.

I was not quite well the next day, and thought I would stay at home to get rid of my cold effectually; for my voice, on which I mainly depended, was very much affected by it.

CHAPTER XX.

Madame C——— — King Ferdinand's Virtues authenticated — I dine again with the 53d — A Spanish Visitor — I tell him my Secret — The Church Militant — I am obliged to send in my Accounts — A Concert — Apply for an Engagement to play at the Castle — A pleasant little Party — Lots of Kisses.

THE next day I paid a visit to Madame C——, and in the course of conversation she said to me, "You must be very cold with your thin cloak, "and must accept of one from me. I have seen "some very nice cloth to day, that I'm sure you "would like very much." I was greatly charmed by this solicitude, and rather at a loss what answer to make, that I might avoid accepting her present without offering any disrespect. At last, I replied, that the cloak was much warmer than it appeared from its being double.

Very fortunately a gentleman entered the room at this moment. He spoke Spanish very well, and our conversation turned principally on Spain. Madame C——— said smilingly to me, "I have "received the greatest kindness from your King

"Ferdinand;" and gave me a very interesting description of her reception at the court of Madrid, and various others. This stranger, a Mr. G——, now retired, and Mr. V——, Madame C———'s son, asked me if he could be of any possible service to me. "Not the slightest. Yes, by the "bye you can. I should much like a ticket for "the theatre to-morrow." "Ah! that's impos-"sible," he replied, "I have promised the manager "not to issue any orders to-day." "Oh! could "you not give him one," said his very kind-hearted mother. "No," he replied, "I am "very sorry, but I am under promise." Madame C——— then added, "Will you accept one "from me?" "I am very much obliged to you," said I; "but some officers have promised to take "me, if I cannot get an order," and then made my bow, delighted with these fresh proofs of her very generous disposition.

At half past six, I went to the barracks, and called on Captain W——, who conducted me to his rooms to change my shoes, &c., before dinner. My simple toilette being arranged, we went into an anti-room where all the officers were attending the summons to dinner. At seven precisely we sat down, and I was honoured with a seat at the right of the president, and to the left of my host. The mess was in the usual style of military hospitality. My host was unremitting in his attention, and the officers unitedly, with great polite-

ness, invited me to take wine with them. Their frequent civilities in this way not only removed from my mind every doubt of their sincere motives for inviting me, but induced the worthy president to say to Captain ———, "Pray tell "your friend we take wine after dinner, for I "don't think he knows it, he's drinking a devil "of a lot." This remark was very kindly made; the experienced old soldier was fearful of the wine's potent effects, but he did not perceive that my libations were well "watered."

After dinner, the band, which was in an adjoining room, played several favourite airs; and the idea struck me, as they were dismissed, of offering my services on the guitar; for I suspected my worthy host was too delicate to ask me.

The guitar was immediately sent for: I sang and played to them. In return they favoured me with some English songs, and one or two accompanied themselves on the guitar. The evening passed very pleasantly, enlivened with a variety of anecdotes, and a diversity of vocal and instrumental performance, in which every one contributed his share; and many a bottle of excellent claret was dismissed the social service with Molly Thomson's mark.

The next day a Spanish gentleman called on me. I had accidentally met him on Wednesday in Sackville Street, which, by the way, I have omitted to mention. He had observed me talking to a

person in Spanish, and spoke to me after I had left him to enquire if I was a Spaniard. "Yes, "Sir," I replied to his question, quite coolly, little suspecting my customer. "From what part?" "From Castille." "Castille, my dear fellow— "they don't dress so in Castille." "I was born "in Cuba, Sir," I replied; "are you a Spaniard?" "Si, Señor," was the reply, at which I felt any way but comfortable, and thought of leaving him; but an abrupt departure would be rather uncivil, so I continued with him, saying as little as possible.

He told me he was an emigrant and a priest, and had a benefice in a catholic chapel. His story, fortunately for me, was cut short, by his hurry to go somewhere else, and I was by no means sorry to lose him; but he first gave me his address, and asked me for mine. The same love of civility which induced me to stay with him, caused me to give it him; but I must confess I did it with great reluctance. I was so little desirous of his acquaintance, that I determined to tell my landlady always to deny me to him. This, alas! I forgot to do, and my neglect was the cause of his present visit. I had no alternative, but to take him up to my room to explain how far I claimed the honour of being a Spaniard. He was well acquainted with several Spanish gentlemen of my acquaintance, which led to my telling him, how and from whom I ob-

tained my knowledge of the guitar. He told me he was a *general* during the revolution. "*Gene-*" "*ral!*" I exclaimed, recollecting that at Salisbury I was questioned about such a person; "you "are not the *General Friar* that I have heard "so much talk about?" "I am the General Friar," said he. "I was originally a friar, but latterly fol-"lowed the military profession, on account of the "distressed state of my country, and got the rank "of general:" and he detailed various particulars of his life and the revolution. I was very much astonished to hear, that one or two Spanish gentlemen, who held very active posts during this period, were spoken of in a manner very different from that generally adopted in England.

He drew a couple of cigars from a small case; politely offering me one, which I declined, and then begged permission to smoke himself. Of course, I could not say nay; but as I answered in the affirmative, I was thinking how I should get my room free of this *perfume*. I took the liberty of enquiring how he was getting on. He replied, "Así, Así;" but from his imperfect knowledge of the English language, he could not hear confessions, and he was thus deprived of a very profitable occupation. I could not help smiling at the word *profitable*, and gave him full credit for the sincerity of his regret. In conclusion, he asked me to speak to Madame C—— on his account, observing, that she was renowned for as-

sisting people in distress. I promised him to do so, and in the mean time to try in other quarters; and wrote a letter, on his account, to a Mr. P—— of Newport, in Monmouthshire, who had kindly offered to assist me if I required it.

Sunday, 22d of March. I went like a good Catholic with my amiable landladies to hear mass at the metropolitan chapel; and in the evening I took a walk with them about the town. After my arrival in Dublin, I wore a blue cloth cap instead of the straw hat, in order to attract less notice; and I managed to get along the streets tolerably well; but all the comical remarks of the lower orders savoured greatly of the prevailing slang of the day for the anti-catholic party.

The following morning, I went to see Mr. B—— of the register office, at the Lying-in Hospital, to whom I had a letter of introduction from the gentlemen of Messrs. W—— and Co's. establishment, in Westmoreland Street: indeed I have to acknowledge myself much indebted to them for their great attention to me during my stay in Dublin. This letter recommended me to an engagement at a ball, which was to be given in aid of this charitable institution.

Mr. B—— and another gentleman discussed together for some time, and at first gave me strong hopes of getting a *guinea*; but at last the latter said to me, that as it was a ball for charity, and it was too late to announce me in the bills,

consequently my playing could not possibly benefit the charity; and a *guinea* being a *guinea*, it was as well saved: but perhaps another time they might be able to assist me. They both expressed their earnest wish to do so, and lamented they could not on the present occasion. Their motives were undoubtedly correct, and they displayed a very honourable respect to the welfare of the institution under their charge; but my extreme poverty would have made me give them more credit for just principles, if they had bestowed upon me that same guinea which they so shrewdly declared to be a guinea. The next day I received a letter from Lady G——, begging me to "passer chez elle," at four o'clock, to be paid for her daughter's lessons. Not seeing the immediate necessity of "passeing chez," her ladyship's, and being exceedingly poor, I wrote a very respectful letter to say, that I was engaged at that hour; but that her ladyship was aware of the number of my visits,—might reward me, as she thought I merited, and that *my* servant would wait for the answer.

This I sent precisely at *four*, and the servant brought me back a letter from the Viscountess, saying, that I had only given Miss T—— two lessons, for which she sent me a pound; and requested me to give her a little German song, or something of the kind. As I read this note, I laughed most heartily over my success in getting

the *pound*, which if I had gone for myself, would have been only *half a sovereign*. It really gave me an appetite for my dinner; and, what was better, the means of getting one.

In the evening of the following day, I went to Sir ———'s musical party, at his polite invitation. There were several eminent vocal performers, who sang trios, and quartettes, arranged by Sir ——— and in very beautiful style. My powers, both vocally and instrumentally, were exercised; but amongst such an assemblage of talent, particularly on account of the refined ear of the knight himself, I could not help feeling diffident, and confined myself to Spanish national airs as much as possible. The Miss A———s sang with great taste; their voices harmonized exceedingly well with each other, and as they were professional, they had every advantage that science could give them.

At twelve o'clock supper was announced. We proceeded down stairs to two rooms communicating with each other, fitted up with an immense deal of fanciful taste; and by candle-light one appeared transported to the stage of an opera, the walls representing various scenes. A gentleman of the name of B———, who sat beside me, invited me to his party the following week, which I accepted, and after supper the singing was renewed, with additional spirit, and was kept up until two. I made my bow to Sir ———, who

politely expressed his happiness of my acquaintance, and I then retired.

I never spent an evening so pleasantly at a musical party; and the worthy host amused me very much. If report be true, he is between sixty and seventy; but dresses with so much taste and brilliancy, that I really took him for about two-thirds of this age. The next day I met him, and he very kindly obtained for me a pupil, and invited me to dinner. This I accepted; but as he was engaged in the evening, he left me early and I returned home to pass my time writing. The next day I made an attempt to get an engagement at the Castle for the evening. After trying every quarter for interest, in vain, I went to Sir G— R—, chamberlain to her grace; but he was not at home, so I wrote him a note stating who I was, to whom known, and begged his interest for an engagement. At six o'clock I received the following very polite letter: —

"Sir G—— R—— will feel much plea-
"sure in mentioning Mr. de Vega's name to their
"graces, the Lord Lieutenant and the Duchess
"of Northumberland; but, as there is to be a
"ball at the Castle to night, there would be no
"opportunity to hear Mr. de Vega's performance
"on the guitar.

"**Castle, Thursday.**"

Though I was disappointed in going to the Castle, the tenor of this note gave me hopes that I should succeed another time, and I resolved to let no opportunity escape by which I might accomplish this favourite wish. In the evening I went to a small tea party, I must not say where; but it was at the house of a very good natured fellow, and there were several young ladies. Dear little creatures, I shall never forget them. For the first time in my life I now saw a real Irish jig, and acquired a very different opinion of this national dance to that I had previously entertained, from seeing it gracelessly shuffled through in England. Whereas, now, I found it exceedingly pretty, and well adapted to their national music. My guitar was much in use in the course of the evening; and, as I was playing to several young ladies in one room, whilst the elder part of the party were in another, I asked one of them as we had been dancing, if she liked the *figure waltze.* Before I proceed, I must say, that two of them were fresh from school, about fifteen years, and the other two eighteen.

This young lady said she did not know, and I volunteered to teach her, and accordingly after waltzing round the room once or twice, and moving her hands occasionally over her head, I at last so encircled them round her neck that she could not move her head, and then gave her

proof by signs (not deeds), of what might be done in the figure waltze. This set them all on the titter, and they called me a very *funny fellow*.

When the party broke up, I got the two elder ones on each arm, and proceeded out first, leaving the old folks a little in the rear; and, favoured by the darkness of the night, I pretended that I wanted to whisper to them, and gently imprinted a kiss; for which I received so curious a rebuff, that I fancied they meant again, so I repeated it. Amusing ourselves at this very agreeable pastime, the younger ones came up, having observed us, and I thought the best way to secure secrecy was to let them participate in our amusement.

The elder folks approaching, one of the little Erin beauties on my arm (how fertile young ladies are in invention!) said, "Let them go by "us, pretend to tie your shoe." I, of course, profitted by the hint. The elderly people coming up, asked what was the matter. "Oh nothing," said the young lady; "the Señor's only tying up his "shoe." The good folks were sufficiently advanced, before I again repeated my kisses to them all, and the little rogues positively waited for their turn. I really found myself on very close, but certainly a very pleasant duty, and could have fancied myself in the luxurious enjoyments of a Harem, had we been any where but in the street. "You really, Señor," said one of them on my

arm, " must think us very curious girls ? " " Non-" sense," said I, " we do the same in *Spain* ;" and again we kissed around.

Agreeable walks are always the shortest, and I found myself at their house ere I could have supposed we were half way, and here we had the cream of our fun. What a *painful struggle* it is to part with *those* we like. The kiss, of course, went round and round again, and at last I gave the preference to one of them; but the disinterested little rogue would not allow of any " partial dealing," and said to her friend, " Now " you take one : " she was agreeably honest, and said to another, " There, now you take one," and again it went round. " Now," said one, " you take " another." " Well then, there." " Now, you " take one ; " " There," " You take another : " and in this way did I remain for about ten minutes, taking the last kiss ; and, as I went away, I sighed,

> 'Good night, good night ! parting is such sweet sorrow,
> That I could say — good night, till it be morrow.

What a strange thing is this darkness ! What a wonderful confidence it gives us !— I mean in love affairs.

CHAPTER XXI.

More Kisses — I propose a Public Concert — Preparations — An Aged Lover — An Evening Party — The Biter Bit — Measure for Measure — The Concert determined on — A Gaming House — I write to Lady M—— — My Importance revealed to me — Self versus Lady M—— — The Anacreontic — A Fight.

THE next day I went to my pupil Miss D——, and after making some arrangements about lessons, &c., her mamma gave me a pound in advance which I was too glad to accept, as I had already a small account standing at my lodgings, and I was enabled to pay it off. I now paid a visit to the little heroines of the last night's kissing adventure, and repeated my former salutations, but with more constancy, and less profusion; one of them, in particular, pleased me very much. She possessed those exquisite and indescribable eyes, which the fair daughters of Erin are so peculiarly endowed with.

On my return, I began to consider the long time I had already been in Dublin; the little of interest I had met with; the horrid monotony of

teaching, which was too mechanical an alternative to submit to for any length of time; the general scarcity of money, and the ill success of every method to procure it that I had yet resorted to: making me direct my attention to some new scheme.

A public concert flashed across my mind. How glorious, thought I; but can it be accomplished? I'll have a try at all events; and the more I mused the more I was delighted. I was disposed to claim some merit for the success of my past adventures, and was fairly wedded, aye and a very doting husband too, to the impudent artifices I had been practising for so many months: but I had never given a concert, a *public* concert. As I recollected this, I fancied I had done comparatively nothing, and was inclined to be low spirited. The farce I had been carrying on required a finishing stroke. Nothing appeared to suggest the idea of greater perfection than a public concert. My heart was set upon it, and I determined if possible to give one; proposing at first to advertise that I would dance Fandangos in character, and exhibit all the national characteristics of my assumed country; and when the time of performance arrived it was only to say that I was lame, and could not dance, but that I would sing. In this comical vagary, I began to jump about the room, and then gave way to a loud laugh.

"Hallo! Señor," said my amiable landladies, "you are very gay all of a sudden. What is the cause of it?" I immediately told them, and requested that they would not say any thing about it, and then went off to captain H——— of Holme's Hotel, and consulted with him about having a room there. He very kindly took me all over the establishment, and I saw several, which I thought would suit; and the captain entered much into detail on the advantages of situation, cheapness, &c.

From him I posted off to Willis's for the opinion of the gentlemen of their establishment, who condemned my project as an airy one, and to say the least, a speculative one. However, I was not so easily to be persuaded from it, and one of them promised to introduce me to a Mr. D——, proprietor of the harmonicon, now performing in a room, which would well answer my purpose; and accordingly we proceeded to this gentleman, and an introduction took place. He very kindly offered me his room, lights, and the use of his instrument besides; desiring, in return, that I would sing at a theatre he was going to open in a fortnight, to which I very readily assented.

"There is only one great impediment," said he; "the instrument must be moved to another "part of the room; and it's so heavy, I don't "know how it can be done." I considered a little, and then asked him how he got it where it

now stood. "Oh!" said he, shaking his head, "with an immense deal of trouble. It required "six men to do it, and that with the greatest "difficulty." "Oh! well then," said I, "you "can get six more to pull it down." "Ah! so I "can," said he; "I really did not think of this." I could not help laughing to myself at the *great impediment,* and rather thought he was regretting his *generous terms.* He then invited me to come and see him at a boarding house, in Kildare Street, at nine in the evening, to which I agreed. Thus far my scheme appeared to prosper, and I returned home to my dinner.

In the course of my recent adventures, as I was at the house of a Miss ———, I must not say who, or where, an elderly gentleman, who had rather a tender *penchant* for the young lady, came into the room. After making his bow to mamma and his charmer, he placed himself by her side to relate his innumerable sweet nothings to her. Her mamma, very kindly, would not see this, and engaged me in conversation that I should be equally blind. I affected to be so, but gave a leer occasionally.

The style of communication changed (in order to escape my observation, I presume), and questions and answers were written on the border of a newspaper; and the young lady, very adroitly, pretended to be pointing out something of *interest* in the printed pages. Our hero was equally

clever; and whilst his hand was on the print, his eyes were on the margin, which he most undoubtedly thought the most *interesting part* of the paper. I was exceedingly amused with this little epistolary amour, which I would not have interrupted for worlds, and it continued for about ten minutes longer.

The young lady at last offered me a *scrap book* to amuse myself with for a few minutes. This was very *considerate*, certainly, engaged as she was in so interesting a correspondence; indeed, more than I looked for. I felt an inclination to put something in her scrap book about the affair; but no opportunity offered, so I insert this little anecdote to show that I have not forgotten her *civility* or her attention.

There is another circumstance, which I forgot to mention in its place. I was invited to a Mr. B——'s party, where I went without my guitar intentionally. After some singing and dancing, he asked me to bring up my guitar. "I have not it with me," I replied. "Oh!" he exclaimed with apparent astonishment. "I "was not aware you had invited me on ac-"count of *my guitar*, I mean *professionally:* "but if you were desirous I should come in "this light, I will immediately take a coach and "go for it." My answer was too severe for him, and the fear of *charges* caused him to say, he begged *I would not trouble myself*. I enjoy

any thing of this kind very much. At nine o'clock, punctually, I went to Mr. D——'s, and thought it good policy to take my guitar with me. There were a great many persons in the room, and it was much in use, and Mr. D—— favoured us with several songs, accompanying himself on the guitar. After supper, a profusion of whiskey and hot water was laid on the table, and all hands set to making toddy for themselves, in a large tumbler, which is transferred with a silver ladle into a wine glass. National toasts were given in abundance, with lots of speechifying.

It was about the time when the catholic question was hourly expected to be decided, and several toasts were given. The very jolly proprietor wished that all religious differences might cease to be the cause of party quarrels. On this there was a great deal of argument about it: I was called upon to give a toast. Finding them all very patriotic, I thought I would have some fun, and exclaimed, "Viva the Wiserkey and Erin go "Brae." This pleased them so much, their eyes glistened with delight, and they, one and all, swore I was a d——d good fellow.

Our enthusiastic host made a long speech in consequence, called me his countryman, said the Irish and Spaniards were but one people, as they were the descendants of Milesias, who came from Spain, and vowed my acquaintance was one of

the happiest circumstances of his life. "By "G—d, Sir," continued he, "I am delighted "with your frank and friendly manner, which "proves us to be of the same stock; but, if you "come down to the county of Derry, and misfor- "tune overtakes you, I will divide all I have got "with you: D——e, Sir, you shall be welcome "to half of my shirt, if I have nothing else to "give you;" and so he continued his concatenation of friendly promises. But I resolved on being even with him in my acknowledgment to a toast he gave for a speedy return to all the Spanish emigrants; and I made a suitable acknowledgment for the honour they conferred, and concluded by saying that if I met him in Spain, I should be very happy to give him *half my shoes.*

An immense burst of laughter ensued, and lasted for five minutes. One gentleman exclaimed, "Why "that beats Mr. D —— with his half a shirt." After this, we had a variety of comic songs, and it was very late before I could drag myself away from these jolly Milesians.

The next day I wrote a letter to the officers of the 53d, requesting them to patronize my concert, and partly to give them a hint to take tickets; and, as I was carrying it, I met Captain W——, who promised me he would have it laid on the mess table in the evening. The next day, Mr. B——, of Willis's House, invited me to dine with him; to which I consented, thinking it would

be something very simple; but to my astonishment, I found a very large party, and a most sumptuous entertainment. It was perfectly in unison with the rest of the gentlemen's conduct towards me of Messrs. Willis's establishment, and I sincerely hope so much generous good feeling may meet with its due reward.

Two days after this I called in the evening at the 53d, to ascertain the result of my application to them. I was invited to join them at the mess table, and Major R——, the president, told me that all the officers would take tickets; but said that their names would be of no use to the advancement of the concert, and recommended me to write to General D—— for his patronage. The evening passed off very merrily, with the usual auxiliaries of various wines, some Bacchanalian songs, and some guitar music, which the major himself favoured us with.

At twelve o'clock two of the officers went off to a *maison de jeu*, and invited me to accompany them, which I accepted, for the sake of novelty. These gentlemen went in mufti. On the outside of the house I saw something like a mercantile superscription. The game was hazard, and a great many people of different classes were round the table. The captain (one of our party) proceeded rather methodically to work, whilst the lieutenant, who was a novice, laid his money down indiscriminately, and was very soon

cleaned out, as they call it, but I should say, robbed of it. I persuaded him not to play, as I felt much interested for him, but he did not speak French well enough to understand me, and I could not venture to explain in English, so I left him to the mercy of the harpies who were betting with him. They looked very sourly at me, for the frequent advice I was giving him. Having no fancy for these establishments, which are truly designated, and universally known by the name of "Hells!" I left him very soon, and returned home, thinking how very imprudent it was for a senior officer to conduct a junior to so villanous a place; and was very happy to hear the next day that the latter was minus only three pounds, whilst the captain's loss was more than ten.

Not having received an answer from Lady M——, respecting my note to her, I was resolved not to allow illiberality to pass unnoticed in so quiet a way, and sent her another. I first told her, I imputed her silence to her little acquaintance with the French, though I knew to the contrary; and had written this letter in English, with the assistance of an English gentleman. I again related what I had been in Spain, &c.; and referred to our conversation at the house, when she spoke so much of *her proscription.* I told her my guitar was my only support;

and, finally, asked her to send me fourteen shillings—seven on her own account, and seven on her friend's, who had not paid me. This I sent to her by the post, and then went down to Willis's to inquire after Madame C——; and met Mr. V——, who very kindly observed, that he had been at Lady M——'s, and had arranged *our misunderstanding*.

I called at E——'s on my way back, respecting a young lady who wished me to teach her. "I "am aware," said he, with a reverential sort of bow, "that you teach the Duchess of Northum-"berland and suite; and that it is a great favour "to obtain you as a professor." Finding myself so immensely exalted in the musical world, and loth to give up my unexpected elevation, I simply replied: "I was well known at the Castle." Several bows followed, terms were entered upon, and Mr. E—— said, he would take great care to mention to the young lady, that I would teach her as a *particular favour*. I merely nodded my head in reply, and making for the door, the obsequious music vender flew to open it, and with a very low bow wished me good day. When I had got a tolerable distance from his shop, I gave way to a good laugh, at my sudden renown, and his respect; but I was perfectly at a loss to account for *this news* being spread abroad.

The next day, as I went into Willis's, I met Monsieur V——; he looked very angrily, and commenced with "You have just come for me to "quarrel with you. It was only yesterday I "thought I had made up the altercation with "Lady M——; and you have rendered all my "endeavours useless by writing this" (holding my letter in his hand).

"I'm sure they cannot be your sentiments; and, "as to writing the letter yourself, it is impossible; "you don't know English well enough;" and he continued a variety of remarks on the impropriety of the step. At last, I observed to him, that I was very sorry (for I knew the kindness of his intentions), and assured him it was only on account of Lady M——'s being his acquaintance that I regretted it; and here followed an explanation of the circumstances, and he observed that Lady M—— had assured him that she had given the money *to her servant*, to present to me *when* I called.

"But you shouldn't quarrel with her," he added; "she can do more with her *pen* than a "thousand other women; and I'd recommend "you to give her as little offence as possible;" and then wished me good-bye. Poor fellow! he little thought whom he was so kindly interesting himself for. I paid the most respectful attention to every thing he said, and felt infinitely amused

with his narrative of Lady M——'s annoyance. The idea of her giving the money to the servant was excellent; and her telling Monsieur V——, that she felt highly indignant at my letter, and wouldn't *recommend* me to any more of her *friends*. It was too severe a retaliation of her ladyship to withdraw her patronage; but the worst of it was she withdrew the fourteen shillings, that she had given to the servant on my account. However, enough of Lady M—— for the present.

In the afternoon I dined with Sir ——; and as usual, in the evening, passed my time with the soft eyed beauty and heroine of the kissing night. The next day I made a great many morning visits, and in the evening dined with Sir ——. again. Our party was a trio, consisting of the worthy Knight, Baron ——, and myself. The Baron, poor fellow, was a great invalid; which, according to his account, arose from hard military service. He had been all over the world nearly; and I don't know how many bullets had passed through his *lungs*, which was the cause of obstructed and painful respiration: at least this was the conclusion that our French communication enabled me to come to. At eight o'clock, Sir —— proceeded to his toilette, and after bestowing considerable pains on it, he presented himself in a very brilliant one; and we both

got into a carriage, and proceeded to the D——s' party, where I spent the evening very pleasantly.

The next day I got a *singer* to *my concert*, and had the expectation of several more. I dined with Captain S——, at his quarters in the barracks; and after dinner we retired to the drawing room, where he favoured me with some exquisite performance on the violin and clarionet. He was an admirable musician, and performed on several instruments. We had some dancing after this, and I had the honour of waltzing with his daughter. At eight o'clock we took coffee, and then got into a carriage, and proceeded to a musical assembly called the "Anacreontic," held weekly at the Rotunda. There were but half of the usual compliment of amateur performers, amounting to twenty-six. A French gentleman led the band, and they played some very beautiful music. Supper and an abundance of whiskey punch was served at eleven, and I took the opportunity of drinking punch with a person who was going to sing at my concert.

After supper there was excellent singing, and solo performances; in which latter part Mr. P— performed splendidly on the violincello; and, in the former, a Mr. L—— sang "Figaro" in capital style. You will do well for my concert, thought I to myself, and I must get an introduc-

tion to you. On Mr. L——'s returning to his seat, which was opposite mine, I invited him to take punch with me, and then complimented him on his singing. Luckily for me, he anticipated me in my wish, and asked a gentleman to introduce him to me, and then offered to sing at my concert.

I was now called upon to play and sing. After a song I gave them the seguidilla, which I trusted to more than any thing else for applause. The concert broke up at one, and I returned home, which was merely across the way. Just as I had arrived at the door a drunken fellow annoyed me, by wishing me to shake hands with him. I was not much pleased with such officious friendship, and begged him quietly to desist; but he still persisted, and I gently presented the point of my umbrella, and again repeated my request. "Are "you for fighting then?" said he; and a blow immediately followed, which I luckily warded off, and for a little while acted on the defensive, until two Irish (gentlemen I thought) came up, and I appealed to them to interfere. "Sure you don't "stand in need of much assistance," was the reply; and finding I was obliged to act on the offensive, I set to, and broke my umbrella to pieces about his head, and escaped without one return from him.

Finding I had lost my umbrella, I wrested his

out of his hand, at which he accused me of going to *rob him;* but I soon gave him a proof of my object, by thrashing him well with the remainder, until the handle broke, and the umbrella fell out of my hand. He immediately closed with me, and we rolled together in the gutter. The two lookers on came to my assistance, and pulled him off, allowing us both to get up, and then let him loose upon me again. Finding my case rather a desperate one, I grasped his cravat, and giving it a sudden screw half choked him, and soon brought him to the ground; where I took good care to hold him, until the servant came to the door.

The old Irish servant, beholding the affair, screamed out most lustily, "Watch, watch;" but these rascals were all drinking whiskey, or hidden somewhere or other, as none were to be seen; and my opponent cried, watch and robbery, as hard as *he* could. Every one in our house was dreadfully alarmed. Mr. H——, in the first floor, came down in his usual cynical mood, called me a *low fellow*, and pulled me into the house. I had a great mind to give him a wrap on the head, but he left me little time to consider, and walked away muttering a variety of very similar remarks.

My landladies kept saying, "Go to bed now, "you are *tipsy* I see, Mr. de Vega; you are "*tipsy*." I attempted to explain, but it was of no

use; the kind creatures, who were half frightened to death, continued to repeat, "you are tipsy," so that I was obliged to march to my room. I think I was full an hour and a half, with the assistance of the old servant, cleaning my clothes of the filthy mud I had picked up, and I heard the landladies in the next room whispering, "Pity, "tipsy," &c. But my chief annoyance was the insolent remarks of the lodger in the first floor, and I resolved on trying how I could most becomingly retaliate.

The next morning, when I got up, I found the elbow of my right arm very much bruised, and exceedingly painful. My clothes were so horribly offensive, that I was obliged to have them all washed, and in the mean time some of Mr. H——'s compliments of rascal, &c., flashed very vividly across my recollection, and I resolved on having an interview with him on the subject. Enquiring of the servant, if he were at home, she immediately acquainted the landladies. They begged me not to take any notice of it; that he was a great hog, and would leave their apartments. Having a great respect for them, I acquiesced in their wishes, and explained to them the particulars of the last night's affray, and assured them that I was *not tipsy*: but in this latter respect, I thought they were still rather incredulous. The old Irish servant now brought in a couple of broken umbrellas, and I found my

opponent did not cry "*Robbery,*" without some reason.

I was obliged to wait at home till my clothes were dried. I found them still scented with *gutter extract,* and it cost me a half pint bottle of Smith's lavender water to drive it away. At six o'clock I dined with Mr. L——, and passed a very pleasant evening, when he proposed two or three young ladies to assist me at the concert.

CHAPTER XXII.

The Concert fixed — Engaged Profesionally — An Adventure in Church — Gallantry in Wet Weather — Old Acquaintances — Laugh when you can — A Letter — The Portrait — I am again suspected — An Awkward Mistake — News from Wales — Mr. B—— — The Manager — The Quack Doctor — The kind Landladies — The Concert — Extraordinary Success.

I resolved on the Tuesday following for my concert, as I was tired of being so long in Dublin; and got some of the gentlemen at Willis's to write out the form of my bills. I was engaged this night at Mrs. N——'s, of Sackville Street, where there was a *soirée*. I met the Miss A——s there, who were professional; but I was regularly cut by them on account of my toilette, they being particularly brilliant. Circumstances of this kind always afforded me infinite amusement, and I was frequently thrown into similar situations. At their own house, no compliments or attentions were too great, where I was frequently, having volunteered to give them lessons on the guitar.

The old father was profuse in his assurances of recommending me to his acquaintances, though I do not recollect that he *ever did.* The Miss A—s' singing lessened greatly my performance, and I was generally a silent looker on, save when some of the assembly, passing by, occasionally conversed with me. I made my bow early, and received, on the following day, "my guinea," which was particularly useful just now.

The next day I was busily occupied about my concert, and succeeded in getting two more vocal performers. I took the form of my bill to a person who had volunteered to print it for nothing, and he promised me three hundred by the following day. On going to Mr. D—— of the Harmonicon, he told me I could not have his room without the proprietor's consent. I immediately went to this person, who stipulated for a guinea remuneration, to which I assented, though I thought it very shabby of both parties.

In the mean time, I went to the Royal Hotel, next door, where I saw a very elegant room, that would suit me better; so that, through the medium of Captain H——, who resided there, I managed to get it for two guineas the night, and then cut the other fellows for their shabbiness. I now wrote out another bill, and took it to Mr. K——, the printer, where I was happy to find I was in *good time* to stop the first one. In the evening I wrote letters to the Guards, 2d Dragoon Guards,

7th Hussars, 17th and 24th Regiments of Infantry, requesting them to assist at my concert. The next day I took a car, and left the above letters at the various barracks, and called at the printer's on my way back. Not one of the bills were struck off, but he promised them *faithfully* the following day. In the evening I went to the theatre, and became acquainted with Mr. C——, who secured me another *singer*.

The next day (Sunday the 12th), I went to the metropolitan chapel, at Mr. L——'s invitation, who was director of the choir. In a short time, the organist coming in, introduced himself to me; and presenting me his card on which was written, Mr. H— C——, invited me to come to see him. It seemed wherever I moved something lucky turned up for my concert. I had been advised to secure this gentleman to preside at the piano-forte, and very soon introducing the subject, he very politely offered to do so. I made a very low bow, declared what an immense advantage it would be to me, and then (in the style of the parasite of Gil Blas) asked him if he were a relative of the *immortal Hayden*. "I am a very "near one," was the reply. "Then you must be "a very *great genius*," and drew the conversation to my concert again; when he invited me to his house, after the service, to write out an advertisement for immediate insertion in the paper. Mr. L—— now came in, and introduced me

formally to Mr. H— C——, and kindly solicited the favour which he was not aware he had already granted. He then introduced me to another singer. During the intervals of the singing, as the service proceeded, I had a very agreeable *tête a tête* with a young lady, until her mamma beckoned to her, and she said, "*Excuse me* now, my mamma wants me to pray;" which excuse at first sounded very curious to my ears.

The two masses being over, I left this sacred temple a greater sinner than when I entered, having profaned it with such business-like thoughts; and as I came out I met a pupil of mine and her mamma, and as it came on to rain, my gallantry was very awkwardly put to the test, for I felt obliged to insist on their taking *my umbrella*, and then left them, thinking that a *curious dressed fellow* looks equally comical in wet or dry weather, and that they would rather dispense with any further attention; but the umbrella was very soon returned.

Taking the form of my programme, I went to Mr. H—— C——, and was introduced to his lady, whom I found an excessively agreeable woman. We now proceeded to examine the programme, which he entirely disapproved of. He recommended the officers' patronage to be very conspicuous, dilated much on the advantage of certain words being large, and others small, and after showing me a variety of specimens, he

wrote me out the form of an advertisement in a very short time, and agreeing to come in the evening with my guitar, I proceeded with it to Saunders's Journal.

On my way, I heard a voice cry out, "Como estate Signior," and immediately turned round, and who should present themselves but two brother troubadours that I had met in Bath. A hearty shake of the hand was exchanged, and they made many enquiries, adding that I looked "uncommonly well." I understood their meaning, poor creatures, and felt convinced from their forlorn appearance there was no room for returning the compliment. From my numerous acquaintances in the town, I fancied my *respectability* was in danger, and so cut my former co-equals as soon as possible; first doing them the justice to assist them as far as the length of my purse would admit of, and then went to the office, and paying ten shillings and sixpence, was promised it should be in the paper the following day.

In the evening I went to Mr. H—— C——, where I was introduced to Miss H—— (who had politely offered to sing for me), and then to Mrs. M——. As both these ladies were pretty, I chatted with them for some time. In the course of the evening, the *sposo* of the latter lady, whom I had observed examining me from head to foot with all the scrutiny of a horse jockey, came up

to me saying he was an "artist," and asked me if I would permit him to take my portrait.

At first I affected the greatest reluctance, when he begged me to walk up to his apartments, and then showed me a variety of portraits of persons of distinction who had sat for him. After a little more hesitation, I consented, and told him I would give him three sittings, *and no more.* He expressed himself particularly obliged, and we returned to our party. The number of visitors had greatly increased, and after supper, forfeits, and a variety of curious games were introduced, which I had never seen, or heard of, and I think I never was so much amused in my life.

There was an immense deal of piquant *jeu de mot*, which the jovial company seemed occasionally to introduce with great comic humour. Mr. B——, of the Dublin theatre, whom I had seen in "Laugh when you Can," amused me very much by some trite sayings, and some droll interpretations of the French, at which I was so much amused, that I gave way to an audible laugh, and exclaimed, "Laugh when you Can," Mr. B——. Every body was amused at my remark, as well as B—— himself; but he little thought I was in reality playing "*his part*" of the play.

At half past one this merry, witty conclave broke up, and I had the pleasure of escorting Miss H—— to her house. On my return home

I found a letter for me from Bangor, left by a Mr. C——. On opening it I perceived it was from young A—— D——. His letter was full of the kindest sentiments, and I was sorry to find that two letters which he had sent me by private hands had not been delivered. He told me he had been very ill with a fever immediately after I left, but was now convalescent, and he urged me strongly to return to Brecon, making me, and in the very kind Mrs. P——'s name, very handsome offers to establish me there as a professor. Poor fellow! He little knew the person he was addressing was by no means so needy as himself, and was well aware of the extent of his miseries. He little thought I had his own biographical account still in my possession. He never could have thought how often I had read it; what pain it had been to me, and how much I valued it. He *never* could have thought that his miseries and his unjust oppressions would ever be in print. I sincerely hope, by a continuance of his upright and generous conduct—his feelings of sympathy for the distressed, and his willingness to relieve them—and his magnanimity in pardoning his enemies—he will some day meet with his reward.

The next morning I gave the artist a sitting. After a variety of positions, he chose one rather smiling, and looking on one side. After two hours I proceeded to K——, to know if the bills were struck off: to my great annoyance he had

not done *one*. I immediately took the copy from him and went to H—— C——'s to consult him. He desired me to go round to the different *artistes* to ask them what songs they would sing. I immediately started off in a jaunting car, and visited all their houses, and they promised to send Mr. H—— C—— by the evening the songs according to my request. In the evening I went to C——, and requiring another lady, Mrs. C—— very kindly offered her services. The songs having arrived, Mr. H—— C—— arranged them in the bill, and I proceeded immediately to the printer's to have six hundred of them, and three hundred tickets, struck off immediately. He promised to have all the former distributed by twelve o'clock the following day.

"What a hypocrite you are, Señor," said Mrs. C——, when I rejoined the party; "you "know when I asked you if you had seen Miss "H——, you replied, 'Oh! no,' with the coun-"tenance of a saint." "There's a great deal of "mystery about his actions," said she to Miss H——, "I think he's a regular 'humbug.' I "don't think he is a Spaniard." This observation, by the bye, was no joke, particularly at such a crisis; for she was a woman of great penetration, and appeared to mean what she said.

"Ah, madame," I replied laughing, "I respect "the ladies too much to reveal their secrets, and "I don't think I am obliged to answer every

"question that is put to me when a pretty lady is "concerned." "Ah!" said she, "you Spaniards "are great hypocrites." "Madame," said I (affecting to be displeased at this remark, which gave me infinite satisfaction), "Spaniards are "never accused of *hypocrisy*," and then walked to another part of the table. "There, now," said she, "is the haughty Spaniard." I turned round and smilingly bowed to her compliment, exceedingly pleased at my *successful hauteur*.

In the course of the evening, as if Mr. C—— began to grow suspicious as well as his lady, he said to Miss H——, "I think you, my wife, and "myself, will travel through Wales and give con-"certs wherever we go. We shall be able to "make a great deal of money," and then looked at me: but I affected to be engaged with the card players. He made another attempt, but I managed to make them believe I was no *soi-disant* character.

I do not wonder at their suspicions, I used to act with such little caution; for when I like a joke, I unfortunately enjoy it too much, and am sure to tell it; and the idea of *my* giving this concert pleased me so, that I often endangered the secrecy of my disguise. I can adduce no better proof of this than the fact of my having rehearsed my intended deceptions to my landladies, when I first projected the scheme.

I again had the pleasure of escorting the

charming Miss H—— home: she was an extremely interesting girl and pretty, and possessed great amiability of manners. In the course of the evening I was very much amused by a little misinterpretation of a remark I made to her on the subject of love and constancy. "You are," said I, "un-grate-foole." "What!" said she very much astonished; and repeating my remark she looked more astonished than ever. Mrs. C—— happened to be close by us, and over-hearing my observation said, "Why! he means you are one "great fool." Poor Miss H——, I never shall forget her *countenance*, "No, no Miss H——," said I, "I don't mean that; I mean you are ungrateful;" and her countenance changed rapidly from its gloomy expression, whilst Mrs. C—— appeared still to enjoy the joke.

The next day I sat for my portrait. Mr. M— made considerable progress. Finding that I complained of my cheek aching, from the artificial smiles I was making, he very kindly said to his wife, "I say, my dear, just go and smile at the "Señor." God bless her obedience! She immediately sat in a chair opposite and put on some very amiable looks. The very idea of the thing was enough to make me laugh, for he could not have supposed that I understood his flattering request.

I disposed of several tickets in the course of the day to my various acquaintances. Mr. U—

of the Post Office very generously took a dozen. Calling on a gentleman, who had kindly interested himself about my concert, he proposed to me another lady to sing for me. I had heard her objected to in other quarters, and I unfortunately said so. At this the gentleman became very much enraged, and declared unless she sang he would withdraw his own name. For some time "my successful musical fabric" wore an unsteady appearance; and endeavouring to prove to him that I might be incorrect, and with the assistance of his amiable spouse, he was induced to withhold this determination, and I immediately wished him good day.

I received a very polite invitation from Dr. H— to dinner on Sunday, which I *accepted*, thinking I should be out of Dublin by that time. So much for lending his daughter my umbrella. I paid a visit in the evening to the blue-eyed beauty, where were the rest of the young ladies I met on the curious kissing night. In the course of the day I called at the Miss H——s, about my concert. Mrs. H—— observed to me I had chosen a most unfortunate time. "'Twas Lent, and Passion Week, above all;" and advised me by all means to put it off. I should then get a great many more persons to come.

I managed to persuade her it was impossible to do so, and she promised to try her best, and took four tickets.

Wednesday. C—— from Bangor called on me, and we gave each other a hearty shake of the hand. He was a very nice fellow, and had shown me a great deal of attention in Wales. Indeed I put him to the expense of a dinner for six at L————'s Hotel. I enquired, with great anxiety, about Mr. A—— D——, who he informed me had been very ill; and added, that it arose chiefly from the unfortunate state of his affairs.

I asked him after several of my friends, and particularly the pretty Mrs. P——, and the "bundling Welch beauty." I was happy to find she was quite well, and about shortly to profit by my friendly advice, to marry the farmer.

It was a horrible wet day; but I was obliged to turn out, in order to get rid of my tickets, as the concert was on the following one. I hired a jaunting car, and went off to the 53d's quarters. They all very kindly promised not only to come themselves, but to bring as many friends as possible, and had also been consulting about giving me the use of a large room in the barracks to have my concert in. I now visited the Guards, but was unsuccessful. Then the Dragoon Guards, and left some there, and all the regiments in turn. I was successful at the 17th Infantry and 7th Huzzars. Having announced in the bills I would appear in the national costume, I asked B—, the proprietor of the theatre, to lend me one, which he *good-naturedly* refused. I then asked some

of the performers, who very kindly offered me theirs; but they were too gaudy, so I resolved on presenting myself in the dress I wore, changing the trowsers for breeches. As luck would have it, Mr. D——, of the Harmonicon, came running after me, and said, "Oh, my dear fellow! I per-"ceive you have taken a room at the Royal "Hotel. What a pity! You know I told you it "was *only* out of compliment to the proprietor, "and he was sure to give his consent." I could not help smiling at this, I thought it so much like the world. I thanked him for his kindness; and put it again to the test, by asking him the loan of a pair of "black breeches." He immediately acquiesced, and promised to send them to my house. I was advised to put another advertisement in the paper, and was accompanied by Mr. ———.

He seemed to laugh much with the Editor about the humbug of puffing. "I'll tell you what," said he, "people like to see any thing that's attractive "to the eye. They then think it of importance, "as most frequently they are unable to judge of "its merits. It is the knowledge of this art that "makes concerts, &c., go off well, and for which "I have had to pay dearly. Do you know the "story of a Quack Doctor, who lived in a dirty "lane in the city. He invited a great number "of professional gentlemen to dinner, and when "they came, to their great astonishment, they saw

"his table loaded with the most costly plate. "'Why, Doctor, Doctor!' exclaimed they, 'how "'is it you manage this, in this obscure situation; "'whilst we, who keep our carriages, and have a "'large establishment, with the first connection, "'can't make our fortunes?' 'I'll tell you,' re- "plied he, throwing open the window: 'Do you "'see all those people passing and repassing?' "'We do.' 'Well, then, the major part of them "'are *fools*, and they come to me. I leave you "'all the *wise men*.' It is in this way," added Mr. ——, "I make my way through the world." There was a great deal of truth in his reasoning, and the humour with which he related this anecdote amused me very much.

In addition to this, I had already been let into one or two manœuvres to attract notice. Besides, my advertisement was a paragraph under the *fashionable remarks*, in praise of me and my concert, having the appearance of being the impartial notice of the Editor. Many a time have I read paragraphs of this kind, but never could I suppose that they were inserted by the authors themselves.

I now returned to Mr. C——'s, who kindly enquired after the success of my concert, and if I purposed having a "rehearsal" for the following day, or that *I* required any thing of the kind. I declined both his offers, thinking that if I could have the assurance to do what I had done, I

surely might continue the rest without such precaution: but the ladies rehearsed a little in the evening. I was much pleased with the exquisite sweetness of Miss H——'s singing "Savourneen "Deelish;" and Mrs. C——'s "Mild as the "Moon Beams," who was considered the first rate vocalist in Dublin. "What a dandy we shall see "Mr. de Vega," said the good-natured landladies, "when his concert's over. How are your clothes "getting on?" "They'll soon be finished," I replied. They used to amuse me, poor things, very much by their continual enquiries about my new clothes, which they insisted on my ordering, and were longing very much to see me in an English dress. I really at last was obliged to tell them they were being made, for I had no peace until I said that I had given the order. They were the kindest women in the world, and such was their regard for me, that they begged me to call on them for any money I required to carry on my concert; which I did, and was already greatly in their debt. They were rigid catholics, and very religious. We used often to have long discussions on religious subjects, and I found they were indeed reaping the benefit of their deep faith, as nothing ever occurred to them which was disagreeable or distressing, but they looked to religion as their principal source of comfort.

Their strict observance of the fast in Lent was very painful to me. It was only about twice a

week they partook of meat, and one of them, not liking fish, lived the major part of the Lent (Sundays excepted) upon bread and tea only. Having been bred a protestant myself, I thought the restriction was very severe, and pitied her; but, poor thing, I never once heard her utter a murmur at the hardships of her rigid abstinence. I had observed another excellent quality in them. They were charitable to an extreme. I do not know how I could so long have delayed in paying this tribute to their exemplary conduct; and can only impute it to my mind being so absorbed with this curious musical scheme.

Thursday, 16th of April. This day was the day fixed for the concert. After breakfast I gave a sitting to the artist. I gently hinted to him to make the best of his time, as he was desirous of getting it into the exhibition. Before I left he had effected a tolerable likeness, but wanting greatly in animation. I went to the concert room, found no preparations made, and, on enquiring the cause, Peverelli, the head waiter, after a great deal of hum-ming and ha-ing, told me the proprietor wished the money to be paid first. This was immediately done, and every thing went on in excellent order. I now left tickets at all the principal musical shops. I got a grand pianoforte gratis from Willis's. I had some large bills struck out afresh to attract notice, but unfortunately they were of no avail, as they came

out too late; but, to counterbalance this, I took the precaution to wear my straw hat, and walked about my own "ambulatory advertiser;" and continually heard, "There's the man that's going to "give a concert." Having done every thing that I thought necessary, I returned home to give way to all the delightful reveries that my curious position naturally led me into. To give a correct idea of my feelings would be impossible. The successful appearance of my glorious manœuvre gratified me beyond description. I would not have avoided such a thing for a mint of money: and, when I took a retrospective view of its progress, first originating in a kind of phantom—its airiness gradually condensing into a systematic scheme—still a speculation—the attempt to put it into practice—the gradual though rapid success—the disappointment—the redoubled hope—the renown of the singers—the concert composed, and then the universal respect paid me for my notoriety, all the while an actual deluder: even Madame C——, "the empress of "song," as Monsieur V—— very properly called her, did me the honour to ask me if I would sing at her concert*—when I contemplated all these

* I hardly conceive it necessary to say that I immediately offered my services to this lady, in reply to the honour of her request; but she as well as her son refused: observing, that as *her concert* was to come before mine, it might materially injure my success. Not only did I entreat her to allow me

things — the short time I had to get it up — the injudicious day I had fixed it on, the eve of Good Friday, and this in a catholic country — the number of tickets I had disposed of, and all through private interest — when I thought of all these things, and my scarce knowing a "*note*" of music, I felt — I hardly can say *what* I felt — but the thing seemed almost a dream; and such was the ecstatic pleasure I experienced, that I would not have sold "the undertaking" for a thousand pounds. Such was this strange collision of confused feelings and thought, I never once reflected on the possibility of being detected; so excessive was my enthusiasm. A long fasting began to dispel my reveries, and I proceeded down stairs to dinner, during which time my kind landladies were profuse in their congratulations on my success, and did not fail to talk much of my dandyfied new clothes.

At eight o'clock, I went off to Mr. H—— C——, and he accompanied me to the Hotel to see how the arrangements were going on. Peve-

to sing for her, for her sake, but for the gratification also of the novelty of the circumstance; and, pleased as I was with my present undertaking, I would have willingly yielded it up for the enjoyment of the other. However, my argument with this generous lady was of no avail; and now I recollect she did not give one during my stay. I could give her credit for sufficient magnanimity in having withheld it on my account, though I think it was most probably on account of its being Lent.

relli was busy in lighting up, and I just dropped in to place my songs (The Spanish Exile) to sell in the most conspicuous place. I now retired to change my dress, as in the Portrait, save the hat was a little newer, and less bent about. I found in my hurry I had forgotten my shoes, and just as I was going to send for them my cautious landladies had brought them. I now made my appearance down stairs, where I received the congratulations of every one on the number of visitors, and I remarked they looked at each other with astonishment at my having such extensive connection. I took a peep into the room myself, and was much pleased with its appearance. The military uniforms made it look very brilliant. At a quarter past nine, we proceeded to action. I shall admit my reader free, and give him the long bill of fare into the bargain.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

SEVERAL FAMILIES OF DISTINCTION,

And the Officers of the Garrison.

SEÑOR JUAN DE VEGA,

[FROM SPAIN,]

Respectfully begs leave to inform the Nobility, and the Public in general

THAT HIS

VOCAL CONCERT

IS FIXED FOR

THURSDAY EVENING NEXT,

APRIL 16th, 1829,

At the Saloon, Royal Hotel,

COLLEGE GREEN.

SEÑOR J. DE VEGA

Will appear in the Spanish Costume, and will in the course of the Evening have the honour to sing

Boleros, Cachuchas, Seranatas,

AND THE ENGLISH SONG,

"THE SPANISH EXILE,"

Accompanied by himself on the SPANISH GUITAR, and will also play

THE SWEETLY PLAINTIVE SEGUIDILLA,

So celebrated in Spain.

The following Professors have in the kindest manner offered their services, to assist on the occasion:

MRS. H. CORRI AND MISS HAMILTON,

MR. MURPHY, MR. MORRISON, AND MR. LATHAM.

Flute Obligato .... MR. WILKINSON.

The whole under the direction of

MR. HAYDN CORRI,

Who will preside at the Grand Piano-Forte.

ACT FIRST.

QUARTETTO.—Mrs. H. Corri, Miss Hamilton, Mr. Morrisson, and Mr. Murphy: "Mild as the Moonbeams."

CACHUCA.—Señor J. De Vega: "El Sereney."

CAVATINA.—Mr. Murphy: "Meet me to night" .... *Horn.*

DUET.—Mrs. H. Corri and Miss Hamilton: "Lo, when showers descending" .... *Bishop.*

IRISH MELODY.—Mr. Morrisson: "O leave me to my sorrow," *Bayly.*

ROMANCE FRANCOISE.—Señor J. De Vega: "Les Yeux noirs et les Yeux bleus."

BRAVURA.—Mrs. H. Corri: "Lo here the gentle Lark" (Fluto Obligato, Mr. Wilkinson) .... *Bishop.*

CANCION PATRIOTICA (Patriotic Song).—"El Himno de Riego."

TRIO.—Mrs. H. Corri, Miss Hamilton, and Mr. Morrisson: "O listen to the Nightingale" .... *Bishop.*

ACT SECOND.

ARIA BUFFO.—Mr. Latham: "Largo al Factotum" .... *Rossini.*

BOLERO.—Señor J. De Vega: "El Trocadero."

IRISH BALLAD.—Miss Hamilton: "Savourneen Deelish."

SONG.—Mr. Murphy: "The Troubadour" .... *Horn.*

SEGUIDILLA on the Spanish Guitar, a National Spanish Composition.

BUFFO DUETTO.

ENGLISH SONG.—Señor J. De Vega: "The Spanish Exile," *Corcoran.*

GLEE.—Messrs. Murphy, Morrisson, and Latham: "Mynheer Van Dunk."

Tickets 5s. each,

To be had of Señor Juan de Vega, No. 147, Great Britain Street,

And of all the principal Music Sellers.

Doors to open at 8 *o'Clock, and the Concert to commence at ½ past* 8.

The first song was sang with exquisite effect, and met with great applause. I now marched in: a loud clap of hands followed. I doffed my hat, made a low bow, and putting it on again commenced. Seeing several ladies I knew, and there being such a concentration of looks towards me, I felt a little awkwardness at first, and sang the song imperfectly. They politely applauded, and I backed out. Mrs. C—— and Miss H—— sang the duet with exquisite taste, and met as usual immense applause. The Irish melody was sang in a very superior manner. I had now perfectly recovered my self-possession, and sang my next theatrically. I had also the additional inspiration of the pretty blue-eyed beauty immediately before me (Loud applause). My hat was doffed, and I backed out. In the trio, I became master of the ceremonies, and led in Miss H——.

Act I, being finished, a variety of compliments were exchanged, and I made myself as attentive to my musical friends as possible, inviting them to take some refreshment; but their friendships were sufficiently great as to make them satisfied with the "unexpected success," without requiring any further auxiliary. The interval of half an hour having expired, the second part opened with Mr. L——, and he sang his comic aria splendidly. The rest of the announcements went off with the same eclat as in the first. It was laughable enough, when it came to the English

song; the singers ran to hear me, as I had never yet sang the song to them before. Remembering "my songs to sell," I was resolved to throw into these words as much pathos as possible, and sang in a higher key. I pronounced the words tolerably clear, and when I came to "Buy a song," I pointed to them on the table, putting on a most *pitiful look.* This brought down additional applause; and when I came off, the singers one and all paid me *many compliments* on my English singing.

At eleven, the concert concluded, and I placed myself at the door to chat with the ladies as they passed. They told me they were much pleased. My musical friends left almost immediately, but I stopped with a Captain H—— and another officer, and thought I would do justice to my successful concert; so offered libations to Apollo until one o'clock, when I returned home.

I was up very early the next morning, as I had an engagement with the artist at eight. After breakfast I went there, and gave him two hours sitting; but I found myself so tired that I was half asleep all the while. At half past ten I left.

Desirous of quitting the town as soon as possible, I immediately proceeded to collect in my musical accounts. I went to Mr. D——, he gave me one pound ten shillings, which was received at the door, and I returned him his "inexpressibles."

He did not fail to ask me if I intended to leave the town shortly. I went to several others, but with ill success. Whilst I was waiting in the mess room of the 53d, chatting with the officers, while the mess man was arranging the account, Major R—— seemed to grow suddenly suspicious, and said; I suppose you are not going to leave us *now?* I affected not to understand; so replied, "What do you mean, with your permission, as I "am very much engaged to day, I will take my "leave as soon as the account is settled." "Oh! "yes," said he; "but I meant you know you are "not going to leave Dublin very soon." "Oh "no! Monsieur le Major, I have eight pupils, "and take the liberty of claiming you amongst "the number." At which his suspicions appeared entirely to vanish. The account being settled, I returned them many thanks, and begging the major to express my sentiments to the rest of the officers, I made my bow and returned home. From a loss of rest and so much exertion I had a head ache, and lying down on the sofa soon fell into a very comfortable long sleep. I went to bed early in the evening, and by the next morning was quite well.

CHAPTER XXIII.

I collect my Profits—Retrospect—I am anxious to quit Dublin—A Point of Etiquette—A Bachelor's Tea Party to Ladies—A preconcerted Invitation—A Game at Romps—The Portrait finished—A Farewell—The Misses H—— —I leave Dublin—Swords—An Elopement—An Unfeeling Intruder—A Theological Dispute —Arrive at Belfast—The Subscription—Bad Weather—I leave Belfast—The Steam Boat.

THE next day I took a jaunting car, and galloped round to all my patrons, to call in the money for tickets; but to my annoyance, I found that I should be obliged to wait another day before I could collect the whole harvest of my undertaking. I then returned home, and wrote my thanks to all the good folks who had so generously assisted me with their talents. I thought it necessary to express my thanks personally to Mr. and Mrs. C——, who had taken so much trouble in bringing it about. In doing so, I assured them they had only to mention the day of their concert, and I would take great care to keep myself disengaged. They both thanked me

(rather ceremoniously) for my offer, and I thought the latter did not now fancy it was *all humbug*. I now went to arrange with P—— of the Royal Hotel, and he presented me with one hundred and twenty tickets; and added, that a great many persons had entered without any, calling themselves "particular friends of mine;" which I can very readily believe to be the case, as the room was very much crowded. Out of justice to the generous people who took tickets, I feel it my duty to give their initials. Mr. M——h, 4; Mr. U——t, 12; Mrs. H——n, 8; 53d Regiment, 25; 2d Dragoons, 4; 17th Regiment, 7; Lord C——n of the 7th Hussars, 8; Mr. E——e, 2; Captain H——s, 2; Mr. —— (name unknown), at Holmes's Hotel, 3; Mr. U——e, 1; Mrs. G——m, 2; Messrs. W— and Co., 5; Mr. M'C—h, 2; Mr. V—, 4; Mr. C—n, 4; my own house, 6; at the concert, 3; making in all 102: equal to £.25 10 0
the concert expenses cost me 6 6 0

Which leaves to me a clear balance of £. 19 4 0

and, after paying my worthy landladies, and giving my "compatriot" four pounds, and receiving a regular "Spanish hug" in return, I had eight pounds left to shape my course in whatever direction I chose; and I leave it to my reader to determine whether my speculation was a bad one. "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

No one can say I did not make rapid strides in climbing the glittering pinnacle of musical renown.

I need not say, that having really succeeded (and so successfully), I could not help feeling flattered; particularly when I was conscious I did not know one chord of music correctly, and having represented such a variety of Spanish music, partly by imitation, and partly invention, in so public a place, and without having once been detected, I might almost say once suspected: affording another proof of what a little effrontery can do, and how by once acquiring a good opinion of his abilities, a man may be led on to the greatest renown, without being deserving of it.

Now, to be serious: there was only one thing I regretted in my concert, which was, that I was depriving the ladies and gentlemen, who had so generously volunteered their services, of their very valuable time. But as a slight extenuation of my joke, I must inform them, that the produce of my trip I have appropriated to the benefit of the Spanish refugees; and I feel certain, that the same feeling, which actuated them to such great exertion in my behalf, will cause them to be quite satisfied when they learn the manner in which the profits of the concert were finally disposed of. I am also convinced that my auditors, who so generously contributed their aid, in support of

the concert, will pardon this curious freak of mine, and rest contented with my present explanation. But of the very exemplary and generous conduct of the 53d officers to me, during my stay in Dublin, I have not language to express my admiration. To receive me at their table in the hospitable and kind manner in which they did, heedless of the very shabby clothes in which I appeared amongst them, and reconciled on account of my supposed former rank, are instances of amiability and private worth, which require no comment: the fact itself speaks volumes. How truly must such men appreciate the merits of a fallen soldier! How willing are they to assist him to the utmost of their power! Well may we sing "Humanity is Britons' glory." I allude particularly to this regiment, from the great intimacy I had the honour of being admitted to with them.

Not being able to leave Dublin by the following day, and having an invitation, which I could not accept, I was obliged to conceal myself in doors. I spoke to my amiable landladies about having a tea party of young ladies I was acquainted with, on the following evening. At first there seemed to be considerable obstacles, and they hinted about the impropriety of the thing, its being unusual in this country, and they felt persuaded that no respectable mamma would allow it. Against which objections I advanced a great deal of

argument: and, enjoying the advantage of their very best opinion of my innocence and morality, I managed to get their consent.

I immediately wrote a formal invitation to these young ladies, in my worthy landladies' names, and the servant carried it to their house; and marching there shortly after, told them of the joke, well knowing that the little sinners would approve of it; and it was agreed that they should send back an equally formal acceptation, with an excuse for their mamma.

Sunday, 17th. I wrote a letter of excuse to Dr. H——'s dinner invitation, as the extreme shabbiness of my dress would now have been inconsistent; and said, that I was obliged to go to Houth to meet a lady, a cousin of mine, who had just arrived from England. A letter was immediately returned to say, that they should be happy to see my cousin also to dinner. The only way to get off this was to tell the servant to say I had already left. I then busied myself in packing up a variety of "Spanish Exiles" to send as memorials to various persons that I respected; and during this operation a knock suddenly came to the door. It was the amiable Miss H—— and brother, who had honoured me by coming personally to ask me to come in the evening, when I returned from Houth. I took alarm, and crawled under the sofa, fearful that the young gentleman would have unceremoniously walked in; and there

I remained, much to the amusement of my landladies, until the message had been delivered.

I was really very much annoyed in being obliged to refuse this polite invitation, but I had no alternative. In the course of the morning I had innumerable visitors (to congratulate me, I presume); but the answer was, "Not at home." At three o'clock, I was honoured by another visit from Miss H——, and again crawled under the sofa, where I had the pleasure to hear a very amicable message.

At six o'clock, a coach drew up with my fair visitors. I received them at the door, and conducted them to the second floor, where they were assured of my great happiness to see them; and we had another good laugh over the success of my invitation. In about half an hour, in came the Miss H——s (my very amiable landladies) *en grande toilette*, and I formally introduced them to all the visitants.

The tea-service was soon cleared away, and then for the fun. I don't know any thing I like better than an innocent romp with girls of sixteen. We played at blind man's buff, forfeits, tinkers' wedding, Prussian exercise, and a variety of very amusing games, which I had never heard of before. The young ladies were all blind in their turn. They tumbled over the chairs, pulled each other about, and tumbled down; in all which cases, I felt bound by my *gallantry* to

throw myself in the way to *break* the danger of the fall. My eyes were at length bandaged; and, not recollecting their names, I was famously pulled about. Of course I availed myself of the blind privilege; and, whenever I caught any of them, I was not backward to return their compliments. The amusements being rather too rough and noisy for the Miss H——s, they were generally out of the room.

But of all romping games, the Prussian exercise is the one I like best. Each gentleman selects a lady, and they then kneel down in a row on one leg. They are then ordered to lift up their arms to the direction of a stander by; and, after a while, when the outer arm of the last in the row is lifted, the first one is gently pushed down, who knocks down the whole line; so that the finest fun in the world ensues tumbling over the dear creature next to you, and scrambling up again. This latter part of the exercise I was always reluctant about. In this very pleasing way we passed the evening, and at twelve o'clock I escorted the dear little romps home.

The next morning I went to the artist's for my straw hat, and gave him another sitting; and left the portrait a very good likeness. I certainly think this gentleman very clever and tasty in his profession; and, for the short time I had allowed him, he had given a fair specimen of his great adroitness in it. Several portraits, which I

saw, were very exact; and I was much pleased with the very delicate manner in which he had finished them.

In the evening, I told the Miss H——s, that I was going to leave Dublin the next day. They expressed themselves very sorry, and said they should feel very happy to receive a letter from me, wishing me at the same time every success. At eight o'clock, I went to take my place to Belfast, for the following morning; and then to pay my farewell visit to the blue-eyed beauty, who had in no slight degree occupied my thoughts during the latter part of my stay in Dublin. I stopped with her as late in the evening as circumstances would allow, and then gave her a farewell kiss. Poor thing! she little thought I was then going to leave her—perhaps for ever—and doubtless I appeared in her eyes an inconstant; but I can assure the dear creature, it was not without considerable pain that I was obliged to adopt this mysterious method of parting from her; and, in doing so, I parted not with her recollection. I never can forget the softness of her eyes.

My night of course restless, and I was by no means inclined to rise at six o'clock; but was obliged to do so to be in readiness for the coach. I found two of the very kind Miss H——s were already up, and my breakfast prepared by them. This act of kindness was perfectly unnecessary; for my regret at leaving them, and the recollection

of the pretty blue-eyed girl, deprived me of all appetite. They made the kindest assurances to me, and again requested I would write to them, which "of course" I promised; and, at the expiration of about half an hour's sorrowful chat, I rose to depart. My luggage was sent on first, and giving these two very amiable ladies "a kiss "of friendship," I bade them adieu. My feelings were greatly pained at the parting, for more generous or kind creatures than the three Miss H——s I am sure never lived. One of them presented me with a small pin-cushion. I have it still, and preserve it with the greatest esteem.

After waiting some time at the coach office, we started at seven o'clock; and I bade adieu to Dublin — to all her blue-eyed beauties — to all my pupils, leaving the reversion of their studies a benefit for my musical friends — to all my patrons and patronesses — and the very generous authoress, and *her* equally liberal friends.

The morning was cold and disagreeable, the rain drizzled, and I found an outside place any thing but enviable; but I was partly sheltered by the people who were on the coach. About five miles from Dublin, we arrived at a little miserable village called Swords, consisting of the most comfortless hovels I ever met with; and I thought this the more astonishing from its proximity to the capital. I could clearly perceive that the "pig" was a member of the family; the doors

being crowded by children and pigs indiscriminately huddled together. It came on now to rain very fast, and I found the "Irishman's "umbrella" of very great use. We arrived at Drogheda by half past nine, and were allowed twenty minutes for breakfast, for which I found my ride had given me an appetite; and I did justice to the time allowed, by making a very excellent one. The rain becoming heavier, and the weather colder, I wished much for another cloak.

We passed a variety of bogs on our way, on which a great many persons were employed cutting turf; a kind of fuel I always found very excellent. At Dundalk we changed horses, and many of the passengers got down. Returning to our seats, a lady was occupying the place of a young gentleman, who was eloping with a young lady from England, and had the pretty runaway beside him. They must have been true lovers indeed, I thought, who were not a little refrigerated by the inclement atmosphere. However, the young cavalier remonstrated with the lady on the injustness of her conduct; but she told him, with a shake of her head, and a knowing wink to me (as if to get my approval), that she had paid for her place, and would keep it. The young lad again remonstrated, but uselessly; and not admiring the idea of being so soon separated from his *enamorata*, said, "Well, then, I'll sit down in "your *lap*," and immediately put his threat into

execution. "Tom! Tom!" exclaimed the woman to her husband, who was on the front of the coach. "My dearest Tom, here's a man sitting "on my lap!" Tom turned round double quick at this imperative appeal, and the young gentleman had risen from his soft seat, and explained to the alarmed husband the cause of his invasion. Tom's wife winked at him and me too; repeating that she had paid for her seat. The young bride, who was a very pretty and modest young lady, explained to Tom the *hard circumstances* attending her *sposo's* unjust loss, and Tom seemed disposed to be of her opinion; but his wife frowned at him, said she had paid for it, and wouldn't give it up, chuckling over her successful intrusion. At last, after a great deal of altercation, Tom said they must settle it themselves, and turned his back upon the disputants; when I managed to make room for the young bride-groom beside his consort, and every thing went on amicably; except when it came on to rain very hard. The female intruder became wet through, from the drippings of this young husband's umbrella, on her shoulder; and she continually called to her dear Tom to assist her, who, as if he thought she deserved it, very properly took no notice of her.

Going through the vale of Dundalk, the contrasting effect of each side of it was very curious. The one, luxuriantly fertile; and the other, horribly barren; giving a very interesting though

unnatural appearance. After passing through a great deal of barren country, we arrived at a town where we dined, and our quarrelsome woman left us. The coach was very soon announced as ready (for they rarely allow travellers much time at this repast), and we were again *en route.*

The weather now cleared up, but it was still excessively cold, and not having been able to dry my clothes during the short time allotted for dinner, I found myself half chilled to death. During the remainder of the journey, I kept up a religious controversy with a protestant priest, who seemed to be excessively enraged at the success of the Irish emancipation bill. I was much disgusted with his illiberal reasonings; indeed, I was ashamed of him. As far as scriptural quotation went, I found my opponent too strong for me; but I endeavoured to keep him to the justice of the argument, and in this he was not quite so successful. He was by no means the only one I had observed since my arrival in Ireland, that was so vehement against the oppressed catholics; though, as a protestant divine, I thought him the more blameable still to entertain ill-will towards the catholics, after their cause had been judged a meritorious one by a whole parliament.

The protestant party was at one time a most

desperately factious one. It is to be hoped they will see their error, and that the members of both religions will now be friends. I arrived at Belfast at seven, and was conducted to the Commercial Hotel, where I was exceedingly glad to get round a rousing fire, and seek the additional solace of some hot whiskey punch, which I enjoyed very much after so long and cold a ride. Being thoroughly warmed, with my blood in a delightful glow, and exceedingly tired, I went to bed.

The next day I proceeded down to the quay to enquire when a steam vessel would leave for Glasgow, and was informed on the following day. In the evening I went to the theatre. The next morning I was up early, but was informed the vessel would not leave the Lough on account of the roughness of the sea. I did not much admire this, as hotel expenses by no means suited my purse, so I went with two more passengers to remonstrate with the proprietors; but it was of no avail.

I was at home the greater part of the day, and my evening was passed very pleasantly with several gentlemen in the coffee room. They favoured me with some very good songs, and in return I played my guitar. I suppose from my exterior, they imagined I was not overburthened with money, and one of them presented me with

a note, in which I found seventeen shillings. It ran as follows:—

"DEAR SIR,

"We are all lovers of liberty, and "can feel for a fellow creature who has suffered "for fighting for his rights, and we therefore beg "your acceptance of the enclosed."

There was no signature; I turned to the gentlemen and thanked them for their kindness. This money could not have come more acceptable, as the hotel expenses were making great inroads on my "concert spec." In the evening, at ten o'clock, there was a jolly Bacchanalian party, composed principally of the persons going to Glasgow, and I was invited to join them.

After these merry fellows became a little exhilirated by the darling whiskey, they all evinced a disposition to speechify, and so much confusion prevailing, a president was proposed; a situation I instantly volunteered to fill, and was accepted. The party lasted until half past one o'clock, when they could neither get more to drink or more lights to drink by. I never was so much amused in my life with their ludicrous speeches which, in the present work, would be too long to be introduced; but I don't recollect ever having witnessed a Bacchanalian scene which was more truly comical and laughable.

To my great annoyance, the following day, I was informed that the weather was still too boisterous to go to sea. I spoke to the head waiter about it, and begged him to send for the captain. He smiled very coolly in reply, and recommended me to make myself easy, adding, that a comfortable snug hotel was much better than tossing about on the sea, perhaps drowning. I could clearly perceive the object of his friendly advice. He knew that I was the cause of the last night's revelry, and that a great deal more fluids of all kinds were drank, and he was not in a hurry to get rid of me.

However, whilst I was bewailing my misfortune, d——g the captain, and calculating the hotel expenses, I was agreeably surprised by a person coming into the room, and saying that the vessel was going to leave immediately; and we must bring our luggage down as soon as possible. I was too glad to obey the short summons. Mine was very soon ready, and paying the bill I proceeded to the vessel in company with two or three gentlemen passengers, and immediately made arrangements with the steward for my berth. A woman came on board with oranges to sell, and I, thinking they would be the most acceptable things I could take with me, purchased a dozen of her.

Proceeding out of the port, we ran foul of another vessel, and carried away some of her

rigging. The wind was very high, and the sea in consequence exceedingly rough, but the vessel made way at a very good rate. At first our time was employed making *particular* enquiries of whose mansion is this, and whose is that; and examining the coast, until the horrid motion of the vessel made us think more of ourselves. Our best nerves were summoned to withstand sickness; we talked, paced the deck, laughed at our own stories; in short, did every thing we could, but it was all useless.

The weather was excessively cold, and I found it impossible to remain down stairs to avoid its inclemency, as there I became immediately ill; so I crawled for shelter into the most favourable corner I could find, and this was on the lee side, under a large sack of potatoes, amidst the wretched deck passengers. There I remained tolerably secure for some time, until the landsmen gave symptoms of violent suffering. Oh, what a scene! twenty at a time. The noise was dreadful, and soon brought about my turn. I must conclude a scene, the recollection of which alone is likely to renew my miseries. Half dead, I rolled into bed, and there remained till seven o'clock the next morning, when the steward came to call me to breakfast. I wished the fellow in the sea, or any where rather than annoying me, and begged him to leave me. "I don't want any

" breakfast," said I; " but I'll pay for it equally " the same." " Hout, man!" he exclaimed; " you'll die of starvation, won't you come to " breakfast?" I drew my curtain in hopes of enjoying my slumber again, but I could not sleep. Here my oranges became of great use to me, my breakfast consisting of a couple.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Arrive in the Clyde — The View — Grenock — Glasgow — An Accident — Irish Companions — Commence my Musical Perambulations — Nice Etiquette — A Strange Mistake — A New Scheme — The High Kirk — Monsieur D——— — A Heroine — A Pupil — The Mysterious Present — Proposal to turn Dancing Master — Visit to ——— Castle — Change of Costume — My Heart again in Danger.

PERCEIVING the vessel was less agitated, at eight o'clock I got up, and to my great satisfaction, going on deck, found we were some distance up the Clyde. The mountains of Argyleshire from this point were remarkably splendid. Their extreme height, and sterile appearance gave them a wild and romantic grandeur; and the celebrated mountain of Ben Lomond was pointed out to me, of which the top alone was discernible. At nine o'clock we arrived at Grenock, where the vessel stopped for a short time; and I went on shore perambulating the town a little, and finally turned into a billiard room, where I passed away the time very agreeably.

There were some Scotch girls in the adjoining room, with whom I entered into conversation; but was much astonished at the wonderful difference between their pronunciation and the Irish. In the latter, there is a quickness of utterance and a force of meaning in every word. In the other, a disagreeable, broad, and rather drawling kind of pronunciation. Indeed so different is their mode of speaking, that I found some difficulty in understanding them.

At two o'clock I rejoined the vessel, and we proceeded on for our destination. As we advanced, the size of the river rapidly decreased, until it was reduced to the breadth of an ordinary canal. We met a great number of steam vessels on our way, and I was informed that there were no less than from fifty to sixty plying up and down every day. I was also led to understand that the first vessel that went by steam was brought out at the little town I had just left. The banks of the Clyde now became very much enlivened, being studded with a variety of gentlemen's seats.

At half past five we arrived at the renowned weaving town of Glasgow, and stopped at the Bromeilaw quay, where an immense number of porters had flocked in anticipation of employment. I immediately proceeded below stairs to make the necessary arrangements for debarking, and fell down a hole, which the stupid fellow of a

steward had left open, and hurt my leg so much that I was unable to rise. This fellow immediately came to my assistance, and helped me to the sofa, full of his expressions of regret. I was in such dreadful pain that, if I had not been a "Spaniard," I should have heaped some good round oaths upon him for his neglect. However, he made all the atonement he could, and pulled up my trousers to see the extent of the injury. "Poor fellow!" he exclaimed, "I wonder if he "has broken his leg;" and set to tugging away at my foot as hard as he could. This kindness hurt me so much, that I could not wait to tell him to stop, and *gently* kicked him off with the other. After waiting quietly on the sofa for ten minutes, the pain subsided, and tying a handkerchief round it, I limped off to the first doctor's at hand. I scratched out a prescription in Latin, and put at the bottom *pro medico*, by which I got the medicine for nothing, and about an hour after the application I found considerable relief.

I then proceeded to look for apartments, and after a good deal of search, I succeeded at Mrs. S——'s, No. 51, Union Place, third flat (floor), as the Scotch call them. Before I went away I thought it necessary to enquire if there were any "little night tormentors." "Oh no," said she, smilingly, "we never have such nasty "things, we are very particular in Scotland." I returned in the evening with my luggage, and

my leg paining me very much I was glad to go to bed; but, to my great annoyance, I found there were some of those things I had taken the precaution to enquire after, and resolved on leaving the following day.

The first thing I did in the morning was to summon my landlady, and make my complaint. "Ah!" said she in reply, "the servant told me "you put your clothes on the bed, and that's the "reason of it. You have brought them from "the steam vessels, which are crowded with "dirty Irish, you may rely on it." "Well, it's "very curious," said I, angrily, "that I should "bring them, and then complain of them. It is "not likely I brought them, as I never perceived "any on board." "Tut!" exclaimed the lady, equally indignant, "they don't bite *instantly* they "crawl upon you, but they hang to your clothes. "You may rely upon it *you* brought them, for "you ken all those vessels coming from Ireland "are always dirty." I found it was no use to continue the argument, but resolved on trying another night.

In the course of the day I found myself annoyed in the same way that I had been in the night, and I was induced to take off my clothes to look for the cause; when to my great horror, I succeeded in catching three of these tormentors. I threw them, *in a great passion*, out of a three story window, and I have no doubt

they broke their necks in the fall; and for the next hour and a half my unfortunate person was a kind of *trap*, waiting till they nipped me, and then cautiously making a search I managed to secure all these horrid intruders, and sent them to share the same fate as their companions. The good landlady's reasoning now appeared very clear, and I recollected stowing myself under the sack of potatoes near the fore part of the ship, which very satisfactorily cleared up any remaining doubt. The following night I enjoyed a very undisturbed sleep, and was too happy to acknowledge my error to my landlady.

Monday, 27th April. I found my leg much better, so took a walk to explore the town. I was much pleased with its appearance beside the river. In the evening I found my leg much worse, and had the pleasure of a conversation with Mrs. H——, my landlady, whom I found to be a very lady-like woman, and could clearly perceive that she had once been in the enjoyment of better fortune. This kind lady promised me to have a party at my request, on the following evening, of some young ladies; but when the time arrived, to my great annoyance, several of them sent excuses, so that the party was composed principally of children, and I retired very early.

Thursday the 30th. I went out for the first

time, my leg being quite well, and was engaged in two or three places; and at one where there was an exceedingly pretty fashionable looking woman. In the evening I had an "At Home" for the several gentlemen I had become acquainted with at the Belfast Hotel; and one of them, Mr. G——, invited me to tea on the following evening.

The next day I went out with my guitar to visit the houses in the two most fashionable streets, which had I not heard so designated, I should certainly have thought them any thing else on account of their lowness; but I understand it is considered more the "ton" here to have them so, as the mercantile houses run immensely high. I met with a little more success to-day, but was too frequently answered with, "Got nothing to give "you master."

I went to G——'s tea party in the evening, and whilst I was changing my shoes, he pressed me much to have a white handkerchief round my neck; and in order to strengthen his argument said, it was very indelicate to go so amongst ladies. This was rather too plain to be agreeable, and I was going to back out, when he apologized for his remark *as well as he could*, and we marched in. I was introduced to three old ladies, and his two sisters, who did not give much symptoms of being of so refined a "tournure" as to take

alarm at a Spaniard without a neckcloth; and, after hearing some comical trios, I wished them good evening.

The next day I visited the pretty Mrs. A—— and a variety of houses where I was constantly employed. On returning to the main street I was followed by an immense crowd of persons, crying out "Flea, flea." I thought at first that the unfortunate circumstance of my having brought these horrid creatures from the steam vessel had got abroad, and they were hooting me on this account; nor was I undeceived until I arrived home, with this yelling multitude after me, where Mrs. S——— explained it was *flee*, in allusion to a person who had advertised his intention to *fly* across the river in the afternoon. This proved to be a regular hoax, to try the credulity of the town's people; and so far did they believe in it, that about two thousand were assembled at the Bomeilaw quay, in expectation of the sight. They were excessively annoyed at their disappointment, but the author was never found out.

The next morning, as I was ruminating on a variety of family affairs, as well as some of the good folks who had the "ladling out of the "money," the idea of taking a Paul Pry peep into the accounts occurred to me; and I thought I should succeed in this object much better *incog.* than *propria persona:* for, to tell the truth, I did

not entertain the most favourable opinion of these people's integrity. I therefore thought it would be worth my while to visit some of my father's property; and, never having been in Scotland, I felt convinced that I might obtain any information without the slightest fear of suspicion: so that I finally came to the determination of proceeding to his estates as soon as I had sufficient money to clear my expenses.

But, first, I resolved to visit the old family castle from which we derive our title. For the present, I was obliged to defer the gratification of visiting the spot of my ancestor's birth, it being in a very opposite and distant direction. With this resolution I proceeded out after breakfast, with my guitar, to make the best of my time. I was very much employed, and before the evening succeeded in getting a tolerable harvest.

Sunday the 3d. To day I went to the High Kirk, a fine large antique looking cathedral, where the Presbyterian service was performed in all its national simplicity. I could not help remarking the extraordinary quiet that prevailed in every part of it. I observed also that it is not the custom for ladies to walk about on this day for amusement, and that the streets were thronged with men only. They do not make their Sundays as in England a day of diversion; and so strict are they in their religious observances, that when I was humming an air to myself I was rebuked

for it by Mrs. S——, who declared it was highly improper.

The following day, I had the pleasure of calling on the charming Mrs. A——, and after playing my guitar to her a little, enjoyed a most delightful conversation for some time. From this I visited several houses, and although the people were not the most amiable, their money served equally well to replenish my purse.

I fell in with a Monsieur D——, a dancing master, as I was going through the arcade in the High Street, and we exchanged cards in token of " friendship " and the Monsieur promised to call on me at the earliest opportunity. Curious enough; as I went into a music shop, I met another French dancing master, and a long discussion followed on D——, and I could clearly perceive they were not on the most friendly terms; but before we left, there was another exchange of cards. On my return I whiled away a little time in flirting with a little straw bonnet maker, and then returned home.

The following day I went to Mrs. A—— to give her a lesson on the guitar; the guitar was soon laid aside, and as she spoke Spanish she preferred I would give her a lesson to read it. I was too happy to do any thing she wished, and after reading a little we fell into a conversation, which greatly turned on the last revolution in Spain, when I was much pleased with the very

spirited manner in which she reprobated any thing like tyrannical conduct; and said she felt surprised, that in the case of Portugal, there was no one who would for his country's sake lose his own life, by ridding his country of such a wretch as Don Miguel.

On this subject we had a long discussion, and I found my fair pupil a perfect heroine in her ideas, and of course had too much gallantry to attempt to prove the fallacy of her argument, however much I might have differed. I thought that so pretty a creature was better adapted for some softer conquest than overcoming a tyrant; indeed, I had become so completely of this opinion, that I began to fear I should leave the town with great regret, and have to accuse her of tyranny in robbing me of my heart's *freedom*. Her *sposo* very soon entered the room, when I finished my lesson, and wished them good morning.

In the afternoon, I called on the little straw bonnet maker, and after asking her if she liked music, &c., prevailed upon her to come to hear me play in the evening; and, by way of excuse, say she had come for a lesson. She approved of the proposition with as much confidence as if she had known me for a whole week, and promised to come at half past eight. She was punctual, and was shown into the room by the servant, saying, "Here's the lady, Sir, come to take a lesson on

" 'the guitar.' " My guitar, which she appeared to like, was not silent, and I found she had already got her lesson by heart. This girl amused me very much by her artlessness. It was half past ten before she left, and she was to consider whether she would like to become "Madame "de Vega," or not. I accompanied her home, and she promised to manage with her papa, who was an A——, about effecting an introduction between us.

It certainly was not "quite correct" to talk to her about being Madame de Vega, as I purposed leaving the town without aspiring to such an honour; but I thought, in the *innocence of my heart*, that to say *nothing at all*, as an Irishman would express it, might be thought ungallant.

The next day I was out a great deal with my guitar, and continually employed. On my return I found a large bundle for me, left by a porter, who was desired not to leave the donor's name. On opening it, I found a suit of black clothes, with a variety of coloured waistcoats and trowsers. It was some time before I could possibly conjecture where they came from. At last, looking at their "cut," I thought they were of the London make, and immediately fixed upon a certain lady as the very generous donor.

The servant opened the door and ushered in Monsieur D——. After an exchange of saluta-

tions, he observed that he had come to ask me if I would like to be his *Assistant*. That he had a splendid connection, and would give me fifty guineas a year, with a promise of an increase according to his success. I bowed very low in return for the honour he proposed, and said, "I "fear I do not know dancing well enough to "teach." "Oh! mon cher," said he, "n'importe; "I'll teach you my figures, and for the com-"mencement you can have the younger pupils:" and here he gave me a specimen of how he taught them with his guitar, and repeated *une, deux, trois, quatre.* "But, mon cher, you really "must change your dress. You look too gay. "You must look more serious, because you know "the ladies here are very particular with their "daughters. You must wear a cravat like me; "in fact, dress like me altogether. But you *must* "take off those mustachios. The imperial under-"neath you *can* leave. I have it myself, you "see." "Yes; I intend, Monsieur D——," said I, enjoying the joke. "To tell you the truth, "some kind, but unknown friend, has sent me "these clothes for that *purpose*." "Ah! good, "good;" said D——, very much delighted; "*I* "can give you a hat, and a tolerable good one "too." "Thank you," said I, "then I shall "want for nothing: but I assure you, I get "a great deal of money with my guitar; have a "dozen pupils already, and should like to con-

"sider it a little." "Mon cher, there's no hurry; "take your time." He now talked about the advantages attending my guitar, and finally proposed partnership as a due recompense for me, and an equal division of the *profits*. "You may "rely upon my accepting it by next week."

"By the bye, do you know a Monsieur B——? "he says he knows you." "He introduced himself "to me," replied D——, shrugging up his shoulders very insignificantly; "I know nothing "more about him:" and here followed some sarcastic remarks on Monsieur B——'s dancing. "Dancing," said I, "he's too short, and not cal-"culated for that graceful profession; besides, "he's not to be compared with your figure. He's "quite *carrè*." "Ah! you're right there;" said D——, delighted with my remark. "He's not "to be compared with myself in any respects." Here he bridled up, and buttoned the bottom button of his coat, as if to draw my attention to his waist. "I am not *proud* of my figure," continued he, and his hands fell to his waist; "but "I know I'm more elegant than Monsieur B——. "He dances like a Spanish cow, and, I assure "you, I have a great many pupils from him; "but I must say, adieu, as I am engaged with "Lady ———," and, pulling out a large yellow watch and a profusion of seals, he wished me good day, when I had a hearty laugh at him,

and his regular French system of humbug. If I had had time, I should certainly have liked the teaching of some of his pupils to "cut a caper."

Saturday, 9th. Since my arrival in Glasgow, I had managed to pick up four pounds, which I considered sufficient to pay the expenses of my *espionnage visit* to my father's property; and to-day I promised myself the gratification of visiting the family Castle, and accordingly went to the coach office to enquire for a conveyance to ———, distant a few miles from ——— Castle.

At four o'clock I packed up some linen, and taking my guitar with me, told Mrs. S—— that I had a musical engagement in the country, then started off. I arrived at my journey's end by half past eight, and paying five shillings for the ride, I went to the ——— Hotel for the night. Here, according to the national custom of the good folks in Scotland, I was well cross-questioned, and by playing to them a little, managed to make them satisfied with the account I gave of myself.

The next morning, immediately after breakfast, I proceeded in search of the Castle, and for the first half mile was under the guidance of a little boy. I was much amused with a number of very decently dressed women I met, who were walking bare-footed to church, carrying their shoes and stockings in their hands. In about an hour and a

half I reached the object of my earnest anxiety. The old castle stands on a small elevation in the greatest ruins. I was very soon within its crumbling walls; and after examining the dilapidated interior of a room or two, and the cellars that remained, I walked round it several times with feelings of the most silent veneration: I again entered its walls, and examined it, and could discern some remains of ornamental architecture. Bushes of a large size pursued a luxuriant growth over the roof; and the green ivy bows, studded with innumerable berries, hung in fanciful and profuse clusters around the walls. I gathered several of the berries, and chipped off a piece of stone to keep as a memorial of my visit. As I gazed on the dilapidated state of its apparently imperishable materials, and beheld them crowned with luxuriant ivy, and as I recollected the extent of its domains, I could not help thinking * *

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Whilst feasting my eyes upon its picturesque beauty, and contemplating the vast thickness of its walls, two lads made their appearance, and I stated to them that I wished to go on the top. "We will "show you the way," said they, "follow us;" and they immediately proceeded to climb up the perpendicular walls in which I discovered various holes made for this purpose. Under their

direction I succeeded in getting to the first floor, though I must confess it was not without some little alarm. The facility, however, with which they ascended gave me courage, and it was not long before I was at the very top of it.

The view was very splendid; and the ruins, as I looked down upon them, were considerably more beautiful than before; so much so that I made a sketch of it on a piece of paper I had taken with me for the purpose. I learned from these lads, that it was a very usual thing on Sunday afternoon, for the town's people to take a walk round the Castle, and the boys to climb its walls. Having finished my drawing I descended, a task I found considerably more difficult than getting up. I managed, however, to reach terra firma in safety, and offered my conductors some money for their trouble, which they refused; adding, I was perfectly welcome to their attention, and they felt it their duty as I was a stranger. This was not the first time I had witnessed the disinterested feelings of the lower classes, during my short stay in Scotland. I made another tour round the ruinous fabric; and taking another sketch from the ground, bade adieu to it with a sigh. As I left this venerable spot, I lamented that I had not been brought up in the land of my forefathers.

At the inn of ——, I experienced the greatest attention from the host and hostess. In the evening, for the first time since my visit to Scotland,

I was presented with some oatmeal porridge, which I found very excellent, and by no means that insipid dish, that I had always heard it described.

At half-past six, the next day, I got up to return by the coach to Glasgow. The landlord very kindly got up also to see me off, and insisted upon my only paying him half the hotel expenses, on account of my circumstances: an act of generosity I never could have anticipated. I arrived at Glasgow by eleven o'clock, where Mrs. S—— received me kindly, expressing her pleasure at my return. My ride was excessively cold, and had given me an excellent appetite, so that I was glad to sit down to a breakfast, prepared with as much haste as possible.

A letter now came from Mrs. A—— to request me to call at her house in the course of the day; accordingly, at three o'clock I made preparations for my visit; and, as I suspected, I was indebted to her for my new wardrobe, (hating ingratitude,) I dressed myself in the black suit; which, being a tolerable fit, I received some very flattering compliments from the amiable Mrs. S——. One of these was, that I was certain of making a conquest of some fair Glasconian with a "large "fortune." I then proceeded to the charming Mrs. A——, and as I passed through the streets the people seemed to wonder at my sudden meta-

morphosis, and Mrs. A——'s servant dropped a low curtsey, and ushered me to the drawing room. The kind lady I perceived smiled as I made my bow, and I smiled too. It was not long before I made my grateful acknowledgments for her very generous presents. (I hope my reader is not disposed to be ironical, or else I'm sure he will do great injustice to my language; for I *mean* all I say.) She denied, however, that she sent them; but I took the liberty of saying, I should always consider myself indebted to her for them. We had an excessively interesting chat on the catholic religion, and as I affected to be a rigid catholic she seemed to be much surprised that as a man I could possibly go to a confessional box, and rather laughed at it as a folly. I felt, that were I not to leave the town immediately that the kind of "confession," I should most be inclined to make, would not require my going to church to tell. As such, for my "peace and quiet," perhaps, it was as well I was to leave so soon.

At four o'clock I made my bow, and returned home. I passed the remainder of my evening with Mrs. S——, who amused me very much with her numerous compliments on my "elegant "dress;" and, knowing I was going to leave on the following day, very kindly made me a present of a variety of little articles: such as needle-cases, pincushions, &c., which her thrifty gene-

rosity suggested to her mind. She also gave me her card that I might write to her "about my "success in Edinburgh." Poor thing! I was much pleased with her kindness, and have some of her gifts still in my possession, and can also tell her, that I did justice to her needles and threads, a very few days after I left the town, by making some slight repairs in my own clothing.

CHAPTER XXV.

I leave Glasgow — An Amorous Guard — Arrive at ——— — Scotch Curiosity — Difficulty of getting Lodgings — Incog. on my own Property — Succeed in gaining every Information I require — Proceed to Edinburgh — Edinburgh — Punch and Judy — A Dilemma — The Equitable Loan Company — The Carlton Hill — Arthur's Seat — Friends from Glasgow — The Conclusion.

I WAS up the next morning by six o'clock, and after breakfast was about to start off, when the very kind Mrs. S———, whom I did not like to disturb, came in to bid me adieu. She was very much distressed, and being a mother of several children seemed to feel greatly "my afflictions." I had always considered that young men are better calculated to undergo hardships, without thinking of the sympathy they usually call forth; but I could clearly perceive that in this case, as in general, my friends were more anxious on account of my early years. After repeating many of the most motherly assurances towards

me, I tried to persuade her of my certain success in life, and then bade her adieu. The servant went on first with my luggage to the coach, and in consequence of my saying, I was going to Edinburgh (whilst I was going in a very different direction), she allowed the coach to leave without me; but I managed to overtake it at the Tron Gate, and proceeded on to my father's property. On our way I was much pleased with the industry of the inhabitants, who were labouring very hard to bring some of their stony lands into cultivation. I was much amused with the enthusiasm with which the guard recounted stories of past dangers and bye-gone battles, as we passed the immortal spots on which they had taken place. The hardy Scots are one and all well acquainted with their own history, and relate their stories with a great deal of ardour. They certainly have good reason to be proud of their heroes, and the brave manner in which their battles were always contested.

These fellows are remarkably gallant in *their* way. On the road we took *up a young girl, whom he took care to place beside himself,* and *in order* to *secure* her from the cold, he placed himself sufficiently close, so as to throw his large great coat partly over her lap. His eyes were not silent on the occasion, and he looked a world of love at her; whilst I could clearly perceive that his

hands were not *perfectly* motionless beneath the coat; and I heard her whispering, "Don't, don't, "Sir;" and the amorous old rascal seemed to be enjoying himself excessively at the expense of the country girl. But, however, the consequence of this "little affair" was, the lassie got a ride gratis.

Arriving at the end of my journey, I went to the inn to make arrangements for a room; but as my funds were small I did not come to terms, and went down the village of ——, to search for them elsewhere. I visited several places, but with ill success, at all of which I was well cross-questioned. At one I was asked what buss-ness I followed. "Music" was the reply. "Ah!" then, said the old woman, "you can't get any siller "here. No, you can't have my apartments;" and said, "there were many of those ere Italians and "Jews about the country."

I then went into a weaver's, and tried what a shilling would do, which after a little conversation I presented him to get some whiskey. He thanked me, pocketed the money, and began his numerous questions, with; "What country, if you "please? You aint a merchant this way? Where "are you going?" and many others, all which I successively answered, and *then* asked him if he could get me some apartments. He told me he did not know. I asked him to look out; but he

gave me a similar reply, and I found I was obliged again to seek elsewhere, and certainly felt much surprised at the bad success of my shilling, as it was the amount of nearly three days' labour for the man; the weavers here only gaining four pence half-penny a day. As I was strolling up the village, I could not help condemning my father's uncharitable tenants, and was afraid that I should be obliged to take up my quarters in one of the low inns.

After trying several others, I at last succeeded at an old woman's, who had been brought up in Edinburgh. She spoke much against the incivility of the villagers, and immediately offered me a room. I thought it was extremely kind of her; indeed, if I had not succeeded here I am not certain whether I should have done so, even in an inn at all, as the lower orders of the Scotch have a great alarm at foreigners, unless they are properly introduced. Poor old lady! whilst I was there she was taken very ill, and I had the gratification of effecting a perfect cure for her, and felt the greatest pleasure at having it in my power to make her a slight return for her kindness.

The next day I commenced my operations of discovery. In whatever place I went to, it was utterly impossible to get at any information until I had satisfactorily answered all their questions;

and then I used to commence mine in return after the following manner. "Do you know one —— "—— ——?" "Yes." "Then is this his land?" "Yes." "I know him very well, how much do "you pay?" "We gives ten poonds a year for "this pendicle; but Muster —— gives much "maire, cause his land is so much better. But "you aint for buying, are you?" "No, but I "know Muster ——, and I like him." "You "know him?" "Ah! na; we never sees him, "we give the rents to the factor, Muster ——, "who comes twice a year." "Is he a good man, "and if you can't pay him correctly can you "wait?" "Some time; but we are in general "very regular." I then tried another: in some places it was, "I dinna ken;" in others I could not get any information at all; but generally I found their strong disposition to ask questions, lead them into a conversation with me, and when I did meet with some very loquacious, I made them be my Cicerone as far as was in their power.

Amongst the richer class of farmers (though they were all like common labouring men), I met with the greatest hospitality. In some of the farms I used to be very much amused with the Scotch washerwomen tramping their linen in a large tub out of doors. At first, I must confess, my *modesty* was greatly put to it; for they do not

seem to heed the exhibition of their legs during their very active employment; but at last I became so used to it, that I thought a *tête a tête* with a "bonnie lassie" in the soap and water, rather interesting than otherwise.

I now visited the head inn of the village, where the worthy superintendants of our property put up during their "ex officio visits," and after ordering a couple of glasses of whiskey toddy, one for the landlord, and the other for your humble servant, and found the host in a loquacious humour; I got him to recount the particulars of these people's movements. He told me they had been at his house several days with their post carriage —devoted an hour or two in investigating the affairs, by taking a *ride* over the estates, and passed the remainder in visiting the neighbours around.

This must be fine pastime for them to be diverting themselves so agreeably at another's expense; however, I took great pains to *note down all these particulars*, stopping a whole week to obtain the information I required. My principal enquiries were concerning the fertility of the land, its produce, which was best adapted for wheat or oats, their price in the market, as well as the value of land per acre, why it had of late years so deteriorated in value; and before I left, I fancied myself a tolerable good Scotch farmer.

Having in every respect accomplished the object of my visit, and excited a kind of ferment

amongst the tenants to account for the stranger's mysterious proceedings, I got on the coach and proceeded to Edinburgh. As I was crossing the magnificent Forth at ———, I was much struck with the yellow appearance of its banks on this side, arising from the immense quantity of furze which were in bloom, presenting a very pretty effect.

On my arrival in Edinburgh, I left my luggage at the coach office, and having taken some refreshment at the hotel, I proceeded to look for apartments. After I had been at one or two, which would not suit me, I was continuing my search, when I was induced to stop a few moments to look at a Punch and Judy performance, a circumstance I do not ever recollect having done before, nor do I think I will ever do again; but on the present occasion I was very much amused at some laughable things that were performed, indeed so much so, that I was induced to draw closer to it, and form one of the large crowd around it. But I had to pay dearly for my curiosity, for putting my hand into my pocket, I found I had lost my purse, containing ten shillings —all the money I possessed.

What was to be done? The evening was getting late: I knew little of the town, or where it would be most likely I could get a supply with my guitar. I suddenly now recollected, that I had something in my possession which I might

turn to gain. I admit that it was the fair lady's present of clothes. It was monstrously ungallant to part with them: but what could I do? I began to consider how I could turn them into money. I was but a poor hand at bartering, at least in the "cloe" way. Yet something *must* be done. Alas! Mrs. A——, pray forgive me! The Jew of Bath's story about his wife's ring, and his significant turn of the thumb struck me. I had an objection to your generous present lying in any other than an exalted spot, when it left my charge, and I determined to send it "up the "spout," as Moses expressed it.

I immediately returned to the office, took the memorable bundle under my arm, and bundled off to the sign of "three balls," which signifies as I once heard a woman define it, two to one that the things are never redeemed; and I fear this pledge of Signior Poverino (which name the man I think wrote on the ticket) will be likely to remain in the safe custody of the equitable loan company for a year and a day. I hate an ungrateful man, as I said once before. Believe me, fair lady, it was truly, truly painful for me to condemn these honours to such seclusion; but perhaps it may be a consolation to know they may *finally* gain more public renown. This very convenient stock of merchandize produced me from fourteen to fifteen shillings, and I certainly hold myself indebted to the fair Mrs. A—— for clothing me when I was

poor of garment, and giving me money when I most needed it.

Being tolerably reimbursed with money, I took great care to put it safe in my pocket, and stop at no more Punch and Judy sights; and proceeded to seek for apartments. I could not help lamenting the loss of my purse, as it was a present from the very generous lady of the artist at Southampton, on whose account I attached very great value to it. It was not long before I succeeded in obtaining comfortable lodgings at a Mrs. W——'s, No. 10, High Terrace; and being excessively tired with my long journey, I went to bed early, and enjoyed a most comfortable sleep.

The next morning, after breakfast, I proceeded about the town to explore its innumerable beauties. The day was very fine and clear, and highly favourable to my purpose. My first steps were directed up the antique classic looking Carlton Hill. There my eyes were gratified beyond expectation. The elegant structure of the new town; its extraordinary contrast to the old one, which looks like a mass of the greatest irregularity—the insulated commanding appearance of the castle, the splendid edifices, the numerous hills, the majestic Forth winding its course into the interior, and the universal luxuriance of the landscape, the wide expanse of ocean in the rear; presented to my eyes a view so sublimely grand,

that I compared it more to the appearance of the fanciful pictures of imagination than reality. From this I visited the castle to enjoy the view from thence, where fresh beauties presented themselves on all sides. I then proceeded on the celebrated hill called Arthur's seat. Climbing this ascent I found my mechanical force did not keep up with the ardour of my wishes, and in my hurry I was obliged to stop two or three times to inhale more of that vital air which the exertion caused me to lose.

At last I arrived at its summit, and my fatigues were amply repaid by the splendid view it commanded. All the beauties I had seen were now magnified in a tenfold degree. The general appearance of the town at this distance, with the castle abruptly rising in the centre, gave it a kind of panoramic delusion. I do not recollect that ever I beheld so sublime a view in my life. I remember well climbing early in the morning the very high mountain in Columbia, called the * Monte " de Caracol:" the extensive view it commanded over the other mountains, the numerous fogs which appeared in the valleys like clouds of snow, the sun just lighting the mountain top, and the village I had recently left looking like small houses made by little children with cards; gave to the scene a vastness which required to be witnessed to have a just idea of it. But here was a very different scene. Whilst the eye is gratified

with the extensive view, it is enchanted with its innumerable variety; and within the distance of about a single mile did I behold the sublimity of the American view, added to the multiplied enchantments of this splendid looking city.

I have ventured thus far to express my opinion from the great gratification I experienced; but I do not offer it as a faithful description of this beautiful spot. I feel, with regret, my own inability to do it justice, but I have no doubt it has already been pourtrayed in language suited to its magnificence.

Now, kind reader, I think I must draw these volumes to a conclusion; and so for the present wind up the account of my strange expedition. When I first ventured to recopy my notes for the press, I did not think they would have extended to such a length; and I find they would require almost another volume to give them room.

Before I concluded my character of a Spanish Minstrel, I gave the Edinburgh folks a specimen of my music for three weeks, or more; during which time I was thrown into a variety of most comical incidents. I received another present of clothes, which I did not "send up the spout," but placed in the more serviceable possession of my industrious landlady. I had also the gratifi-

cation of meeting with an old acquaintance, who was deputed by some Glasgow ladies to "rig me "out" in *his* clothes; and, after allowing him the "interesting employment" of paying me several compliments in his very best French, I communicated to him who it was that had the honour of listening to him.

I thought I saw young A—— D—— of Brecon drive by my window in a travelling carriage and four; and I sincerely hope restored to all his rights. I shall be considered superstitious if I make allusion to fortune tellers, but I could not help thinking at the time of what the *vielle salope,* as he called her, told him. I am almost convinced it was him, as I do not think I could possibly be mistaken in the person.

For the first time, since the commencement of my journey (now ten months) I acquainted my family with what I had done; who, God bless them, were about to go into mourning for me, thinking that I had fallen by the "cuchillo" of some Spanish brigand.

My father's agents here, whom I called on in disguise, paid me the amiable Scotch compliment of supposing I had a "Bee in my bonnet," or in plain English, that I was a little cracked; and indeed it was not before I put myself into some of Stultz's cutting, and under the Truefitt of Edinburgh, that I could persuade them that I had any claims to Scotch blood at all. Unfortunately my

long habit of speaking bad English was so firmly rooted, that I now found it very difficult to speak it correctly; and thus lost the advantage of pure language to recommend me to my birthright.

Whilst on this subject, I cannot help saying that for the first month I was in constant torture from my altered dress, having been accustomed to wear my clothes so loose. My cravat I found particularly annoying, and indeed to the present day it is still disagreeable.

Having now completed my romantic career, and coolly taken a retrospective view of the various incidents I have met with, I feel truly gratified, and richly recompensed for the numerous difficulties I encountered. In every respect have my original anticipations been realized; nay to a much greater degree than I could have expected. Mankind—its intricate ways, its curious fabric, its cunning machinations, as well as generous sentiments, have been widely laid open to me. I have noticed its callousness in adversity, and ever ready to ensnare the unwary for its own advantage—I have seen it recoil with horror at the *thought* of dishonour—I have seen it penurious to excess, unwilling to part with a mite of its superabundance for the joy of relieving a fellow creature—I have seen it, and I glory in saying so, made up of generosity itself, and feel a pain in the publicity of its virtuous deeds—I have

seen it in all, or *many* of its varied shapes. Once I thought, before I took this journey, that man was principally selfish, and all his movements were greatly actuated by egotistical feelings: that *pure sympathy* was not in him. This opinion did I entertain from the artificial society I had always been accustomed to move in — where the thoughts and feelings are regulated by rule, not by nature — where every one endeavours to make himself appear as virtuous and amiable as possible, little attending to the practice:—but now are my opinions widely different. I have seen him in the greatest retirement, as well as dissipation, where his true nature is displayed — where thoughts rise freely from every thing that surrounds him — where the heart sympathizes with distress, without the mechanical reflection or suspicion of a dissipated town — where the hand and heart are ever ready to assist. This is man as *I* have found him, when his *real* nature is allowed volition; and I am happy to say, that I have had innumerable opportunities of witnessing and feeling the charms of pure, unsophisticated, hospitable, and benevolent deeds.

Thousands complain of man's selfishness, and the books I have read tended to confirm *me* in this opinion;—but *now,* I look upon him as a noble fabric of mortality, and, wherever his nature is not stifled by the selfish customs of art,

he abhors that which is unkind or ungenerous, and seeks a pleasure in the exercise of every virtue.

I will now wind up this narrative of my eccentric undertaking; and could I but flatter myself, that my reader will feel the *slightest portion* of the pleasure in the perusal, that I did in being a party to the incidents I have humbly attempted to detail, I shall feel amply repaid for the trouble my inexperienced labours have met with, in preparing these sheets for their amusement.

SEÑOR JUAN DE VEGA'S

DISPOSAL OF HIS COLLECTION.

(*From the Times, November 5, 1829.*)

" We have inserted a curious and, to us, a " highly interesting Letter from an individual who " signs himself 'JUAN DE VEGA;' and who, " under that fictitious name, has, by dint of in- " genuity and unwearied benevolence, amassed, " as we must term it, a sum of 58*l.*, which he has " handed over to the Committee of Spanish Offi- " cers for the relief of the unhappy men who " have lately arrived from Portugal. There is a " spirit of adventure and a display of talent " connected with this extraordinary contribu- " tion, which will recommend, we trust, the " cause so powerfully succoured by Señor JUAN " DE VEGA to the *tastes* of those among our " countrymen on whose hearts it has hitherto " not had the good fortune to make more than a " slight impression. The letter is addressed to " the Committee of Spanish Gentlemen.

" 'Gentlemen;

" 'Without the slightest feelings of disre- " 'spect for you and your brave compatriots, I personated a

" 'Spanish Minstrel, with the name of Señor Juan de Vega,
" 'and also assumed the very honourable distinction of an
" '*emigrado* of Spain, during the much-lamented recent po-
" 'litical disturbances in that quarter.

" 'In my wanderings through Great Britain and Ireland,
" 'I collected about 58*l*., which (as I originally intended to
" 'dispose of the gains attending this trip for the benefit of
" 'your fallen countrymen) I conceive would be most use-
" 'fully employed in the relief of those unfortunate *emi-*
" '*grados* for whom you have so becomingly made yourselves
" 'a Committee; and I beg leave to transmit this sum to
" 'your charge for this particular purpose.

" 'In the name of my assumed character, I must beg leave
" 'respectfully to subscribe myself,

" 'Gentlemen,

" 'Your obedient humble Servant,

" 'JUAN DE VEGA.

" 'Octr 31, 1829.

" 'To the Gentlemen of the Committee for the Benefit
" 'of the recent Emigrants from Portugal.' "

THE END.

CHARLES WOOD AND SON, PRINTERS,
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